

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 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, F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), 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 (McDonnell / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 November 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he attended rating district meetings in his constituency. He also assisted with a tender opening during the reporting period.

Moved (Ewen / Robb)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Meehan stated that good progress has been made with Parrots Feather in the Kongahu rating district. Shared databases are being investigated and a Weed Workshop will be held next week. He advised that Envirolink funding will be used to look at pest plant management issues within lakes throughout the region.

M. Meehan advised that an extension of funding for the Lake Brunner Fresh Start to Freshwater Lake Brunner Project will be requested from MfE to ensure these projects are completed.

M. Meehan advised that he will hold a workshop at the February 2015 on the State of Environment report.

Cr Archer asked M. Meehan if progress is being made to get subsidies for those people within the Reefton Airshed. M. Meehan advised that cost benefit analysis report needs to be done, he advised

that the price he received for the report was out of his budget therefore he will seek funding from MfE for this. M. Meehan reported that he is waiting to hear back from MfE.

F. Tumahai stated that it is great to see someone has been employed in the biosecurity area. He stated that he would be very keen for the Biosecurity Officer to attend one of the Iwi meetings.

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

Carried

5.1.2 PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and updated Councillors on progress to date on the Regional Policy Statement, the Coastal Plan, and Plan Change 1 – Land and Water Plan. He spoke of the timelines for each of these plans. M. Meehan stated that there are also other planning activities currently underway including the draft Land Transport Plan, draft Regional Public Transport Plan, the draft Flood Protection Bylaw and the drafting of the Regional Air Plan. M. Meehan advised that good progress is being made with all planning activities but he stated that resources within the Planning team is reasonable light. He stated that the planning staff is a powerful team, they get through a lot of work but resources are limited. M. Meehan stated that it is impossible to know how many submissions will be received when a plan goes out to consultation and this determines the workload going forward. He stated additional resources may be necessary in this area to meet timeframes. Cr Birchfield asked if those people who submit on the wetlands (Land and Water Plan), are likely to achieve anything. M. Meehan advised that this depends what the landowner submits on and whether or not they have information behind it. C. Ingle advised that what council chooses to reopen is up to council, but it does reopen the whole issue and it has financial implications and council could be up for another eight years of court cases. The Chairman stated that is important that landowners are encouraged to make submissions.

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

Carried

5.1.3 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that the Regional Land Transport Plan and Public Transport Plan is open for consultation at the moment. C. Ingle advised that passing lanes and bridge replacements are included in this Plan. C. Ingle answered questions from Councillors. Cr Robb stated that Mr J. Harland from NZTA was very complimentary towards this Council on where Council is at with its transport programme. Cr Robb stated that this is thanks to the work done by N. Costley in this area.

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

Carried

5.1.4 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING

M. Meehan spoke to this report and took it as read.

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

Carried

5.1.5 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He tabled an updated version of this report. He stated that the unhappy faces in the report relate to heavy rainfall events. He advised that in the Buller and Westland catchments there are some sites that are being monitored weekly to get a better gauge as to what is happening in this area. M. Meehan stated that his staff are working with J. Adams staff and are looking at consented discharges that could be impacting on these results. He stated that spot sampling does have risk as it can be a little hit and miss. M. Meehan stated that during November there was rain 24 out of 30 days

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report. He advised that there is a small mistake with the resource consent numbers in his report. The correct Resource Consent number for the Haast River is RC0146 and the Taramakau River Resource Consent number is RC0147.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the December 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 61 site visits were made during the reporting period. He advised that over the 2013 / 14 dairy season the permitted activity farms were not visited but this year these farms will be visited. J. Adams reported that 17 complaints were received during the reporting period.

J. Adams answered several questions from F. Tumahai and offered to get further information after the meeting and email it to him.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the December 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was general business.

Cr Ewen thanks everyone present for their attendance and wished everyone a safe Christmas.

The meeting closed at 11.28 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date