

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.40 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams (Consents and Compliance Manager), J. Pullen (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Ewen) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 September 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that he has been involved with the Franz Josef Community Working Group (FJWG) and attended its second meeting on 7 October. M. Meehan stated that a list of priorities was established at the first meeting and they then put agencies against the different tasks that were identified. M. Meehan advised that WCRC is taking a lead role in collating the natural hazard information that is available. WCRC is also taking a joint lead role with the Waiho River along with NZTA, looking at the flood hazard. M. Meehan advised that WCRC and NZTA has developed a draft joint monitoring strategy to look at the survey work that is both parties are doing and aligning that to ensure that good value for money is had. He advised that one plan is being looked at for the river and funding discussions are in progress. The community has always wanted one plan for the river. M. Meehan advised that the community has come up with around nine items, including street scape issues and the revitalisation of Franz Josef.

M. Meehan reported that photographs of the Hokitika river mouth which were taken by a drone have been sent to Councillors. Mr Murray Hicks from NIWA is to visit the site at the end of next week. Mr Hicks will also travel to Neils Beach to assess this area.

M. Meehan advised that a meeting was held with the Buller River Flood Committee. He stated that the three streams of work, flood warning, civil defence and potential flood mitigation options were discussed. M. Meehan a communication plan for the community is also being worked through, this will go out to the community shortly. He stated that later on there may be a survey sent out to residents to ascertain whether or not the community wishes to proceed with any of the flood mitigation options.

M. Meehan advised that he will be holding a meeting with the Neils Beach community on Friday to discuss erosion issues in this area and to discuss options for this community. He stated that this matter will be further discussed at the workshop following today's council meeting.

Moved (Challenger / Birchfield) *That this report be received.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson stated that Cr Birchfield has raised some concerns about privacy and commercial sensitivity issues contained in the Annual Report. R. Mallinson suggested that the consideration of the adoption of the audited Annual Report is deferred to the in committee section of today's meeting.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell)

That the audited Annual Report item be deferred to the in committee section of today's meeting".

Carried

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and advised that total income was \$1.827M for the two months until the end of August. He advised that total expenditure was \$1.946M which then resulted in a deficit of \$118,000. R. Mallinson stated that had the investment portfolio generated returns to his expectations there would not be a deficit as the investment income is \$118,000 less than budgeted for.

He stated that demand for river drainage and coastal protection works has been high during the reporting period. Cr Archer asked R. Mallinson what was likely to happen regarding the investment income. R. Mallinson said that there were very strong gains in July followed by negative returns in August and continuing negative returns in September. R. Mallinson stated that council income hasn't yet included any income from the annual consent fee charge as invoices are yet to be sent out to consent holders. R. Mallinson stated that the deteriorations in August and September were directly attributable to the troubled Chinese stock equity markets. He is hopeful that the results for October will show a strong rebound. Extensive discussion took place. R. Mallinson answering various questions from Councillors.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that the recent visit from Hon Simon Bridges was very good. They spoke about transport matters and minerals.

The Chairman reported that Jo Hayes, National List MP, was accompanied by Maureen Pugh when she visited recently.

The Chairman spoke about the recent Mayors and Chairs special meeting. He stated that Councillors were emailed a report on the West Coast Council's Commitment to Regional Efficiency. The Chairman asked Councillors for their thoughts on this matter. The report was put together by the four council chief executives. The Chairman advised that the report sets out a process to ascertain whether this will provide better service and savings for our communities versus a unitary council. Extensive discussion took place. Various questions were answered.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer)

That Council endorse The Commitment to Regional Efficiency as tabled in the Chairman's report.

Carried

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That this report is received.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He stated that the highlight from the recent Zone 5 and 6 meeting was the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy which Jim Palmer, CEO from Waimakariri

District Council presented. C. Ingle stated that this was very similar to ours but it contains a lot more data. C. Ingle advised that one difference is that each action area has been assigned to a district council to implement, with Environment Canterbury doing freshwater management and irrigation infrastructure which is a major driver of the agricultural economy in Canterbury.

C. Ingle reported that Exercise Shakeout was a success.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the South Island Regional and Unitary Council CEO's meeting in Nelson on the weekend. He stated that the CEO's from Southland, Otago, Top of the South and Canterbury were in attendance.

C. Ingle advised that the meeting with Bathurst Mining Ltd scheduled for 19 October was cancelled by them.

C. Ingle reported that the Mayors and Chairs meeting scheduled for November will communicate the Regional Efficiency Report to the Local Government Commission as an alternative to a unitary council process. C. Ingle advised that it is important to keep in mind that studies will have to be carried out to establish whether or not the six criteria in the document are satisfied for each of the local government services that are provided. C. Ingle advised that Section 17A of the Local Government Act talks about service reviews, and this is the tool to use, to work collaboratively on this.

C. Ingle stated that the Update on TB Plan Review from OsPRI is attached to his report.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Clementson asked for clarification as to whether or not Council's quarry operations are covered in its health and safety plan. M. Meehan responded that Council is aware of the changes to the Health and Safety Act and what has been proposed. M. Meehan stated that Council as the Principal has the responsibility for the health and safety plans. M. Meehan stated that over the past 2 – 3 years Council has had a strong focus on health and safety. M. Meehan stated that Council's Quarry Manager is doing a lot of work in this area. C. Ingle advised that it has been a long time since Council has relied on contractor's health and safety plans. C. Ingle advised that Council has held tertiary level ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices (WSMP) since April 2013. C. Ingle stated that health and safety is another area that benefits from forums such as the South Island CEO's meetings as all parties are looking at the same issues. C. Ingle stated that the whole health and safety culture of this council has changed in recent years and he feels that this council is ahead of the game in this area.

M. Meehan requested that he not provide an engineering operations report for next month's meeting. This is due to the tight turnaround of meetings and the upcoming round of annual rating district meetings. This request was granted.

The meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date