

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2015, 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, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, J. Douglas

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *that the apologies from Cr Clementson and Cr Challenger be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Birchfield / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 August 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Ewen reported that he attended one tender opening during the reporting period.

**Moved** (Ewen / Robb)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and provided an update on the Ministry's work programme for the coming two to three years. He advised that MfE has outlined the areas they are going to focus on with the main focus being NES's and NPS's as this is a good way of getting consistency across the country. M. Meehan drew attention to the column titled "implications for council" and gave an update on each topic that relates to this council. He stated that it is important that Council keeps abreast of these policy items as they develop.

M. Meehan advised that feedback from consultation in relation to the Proposed Land and Water Plan amendments has been received from Iwi, DoC and the district councils. One hui has been held and a further hui is scheduled for two weeks' time. M. Meehan advised that he would report back to council after the second Hui to report on progress, he is happy with progress to date. J. Douglas confirmed that she is happy with progress and is gaining a good understanding of this.

M. Meehan reported that the heavy rainfall event that hit the West Coast on 18 and 19 June affected Hokitika particularly. He stated that rainfall data from Hokitika airport dating back to 1964 revealed this event, for a 24 hour period, equated to a one in 110 year event, (less than 0.9% AEP) and for 48 hours it was a 150 year return period (0.6% AEP). M. Meehan stated that the data revealed that this was a major coastal event and that is why homes in the town were affected.

C. Ingle advised that the Minister wants to review the NES for air quality before the deadline of December 2016 to bring in the main elements of the recent PCE report. M. Meehan stated that half of the councils in New Zealand will be unable to meet the NES by December 2016. M. Meehan advised that Emily Wilton from MfE has been asked to prepare a report on what the implications would be to measure PM<sub>2.5</sub> rather than PM<sub>10</sub>.

Discussion took place on fencing of waterways. Cr Robb stated that by 2025 all cattle, dairy cattle especially and intensive beef cattle are to be excluded from all waterways. C. Ingle noted that Ecan already has a no stock in water policy in place. M. Meehan stated council will be able to use the definition arrived at through the Land and Water Plan for "what is a waterway".

Cr Archer drew attention to the term "one in 150 year return period event in relation to heavy rainfall events. Cr Archer feels the term "AEP" (annual exceedance probability) would be a better term to use.

Cr Birchfield asked M. Meehan for an update with regard to the moving of the sampling point for air quality recordings in Reefton. M. Meehan responded that the sampler will be moved in the next month or two. He advised that the new site for the sampler will be at the school.

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell) *that the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 LAKE BRUNNER ACHIEVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY TARGET**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that this is a good news story with achievement of the Land and Water and Long Term Plan water quality target for the lake. M. Meehan advised that council has been working very closely with the Lake Brunner farming community from around the early 2000's to now. He stated that early on some fisherman that went into this catchment highlighted some issues with stock access to the waterways. M. Meehan stated that from around 2003 / 04 farmers were spoken to by Council staff about effluent management in this area. He stated that funding was applied for to develop farm plans in this catchment. In December 2009 council released a discussion paper seeking to reverse the declining water quality with the initial focus on fertiliser management. M. Meehan stated that hearings were held in June 2012 and decisions on the Proposed Land and Water Plan were released in September 2012. In January 2013 \$200,000 was received from MfE for planting in the catchment. A Lake Brunner Community Catchment Care Group was formed in February 2013. In May 2014 the Land and Water Plan was made operative. M. Meehan advised that in August 2014 the Lake Brunner Community Catchment Care Group got runner up award at the TrustPower Grey District Community Awards. In August this year analysis on water quality was done and it was found that the TLI target was met. Next month the MfE Fresh Start to Freshwater Fund will move into completion. M. Meehan outlined the work to date, over 43 kms of fencing and over 20,000 plants will have been planted. M. Meehan advised that the rates demand newsletter will highlight this achievement; and the Minister Hon. Nick Smith will be attending an event in the catchment to celebrate this achievement. A date is yet to be set for this. Cr Robb stated that he is pleased to see the other contributing parties acknowledged in this recommendation. Cr Archer stated this report is excellent and spells out the amount of work that has gone into achieving this target. C. Ingle stated that as CEO, this was one of his top three things to achieve and he is personally very pleased to have reached this target. He stated that huge thanks must go to M. Meehan and his team and J. Adams and his team. C. Ingle stated that the farming community has shown willingness, and Westland Milk Products have put a lot of time and effort into this. Cr Robb asked that appreciation from him and his fellow councillors are passed on to staff for their efforts in reaching this achievement. He stated that staff helping with this project on their days off is an indication of what makes this organisation the success that it is.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council acknowledges the effort of the WMP and the landowners in the catchment, and wider stakeholders, involved in reaching this target.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 HYDROLOGY AND RAINFALL NETWORK REVIEW**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that it is the same report that went to last month's councillor workshop. He advised that the crux of this report is the improvements that can be made to the flood warning network particularly in the Buller catchment. Cr Ewen drew attention to the higher cost of one site. M. Meehan agreed to look into this and report back to the next meeting.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council completes the additional 19 proposed flow and rainfall sites over seven years.*
3. *That the estimated costs are refined and included in the 2016 Annual Plan for consultation.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.4 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that at the time of writing this report there have been 14 exceedances of the NES for air quality in Reefton. He stated this is a slight improvement on last year.

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell) *that the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 19 non-notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. Eight changes to consent conditions were granted.

J. Adams answered various questions from councillors.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Robb) *that the September 2015 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 31 site visits were made during the reporting period. 22 visits were compliant and 9 were non-compliant. He reported that 11 alluvial gold mine inspections were completed and one coal mining site inspection.

J. Adams advised that one formal warning was issued and two infringement notices were issued during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that three work programmes were received during the reporting period which has now been completed. One bond for RC2014-0159 was received during the reporting period and two bonds are recommended for release. J. Adams answered various questions relating to his report.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That the September 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the bonds for Blacktopp Mining Ltd (RC10068 and RC11200) are released.*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

J. Douglas passed on the concerns of several Hokitika residents regarding the state of the Hokitika river mouth. She stated that locals are worried that the river mouth is too narrow and since the recent flood event there are heightened concerns. It was noted that the river mouth is currently running towards the south. M. Meehan stated that advice was sought a few years ago when the mouth was narrow and running south. He offered to look for this information. C. Ingle confirmed that Niwa advice was sought prior to the building of the Hokitika seawall and it would be good to get Mr Hicks from Niwa back for an update on this matter. M. Meehan advised that he would follow up on this. It was noted that this river mouth can be opened up under the permitted activity rule. J. Douglas stated that it has been predicted that this spring is going to be very wet and in view of this it would be good to have a plan in place.

J. Adams advised that he has submitted his resignation and he is leaving to work for NZ Petroleum and Minerals in Wellington as of the end of October. C. Ingle passed on his thanks to J. Adams on behalf of staff. C. Ingle stated that J. Adams has done a fantastic job in his three years here and that he is very sad to lose him. He has done some very good work, he has put some very robust systems in place particularly in the compliance area. J. Douglas also thanked J. Adams for his mahi and his guidance and wished him and his family well for the move to Wellington. A round of applause followed.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date