

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2016, 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, T. Archer, S. Challenger, P. McDonnell, N. Clementson, J. Douglas

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), A. Melrose (Regional Planner), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (McDonnell / Clementson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 July 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the recent Regional Transport Committee meeting with the Chairman. He also took a telephone call from ratepayer regarding the Hokitika Seawall.

**Moved** (Ewen / Challenger)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT**

S. Jones spoke to this report and stated that staff are in the process of reviewing submissions on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement. She advised that a recommending report will be compiled and pre hearing meetings will be held in September / October. S. Jones advised that a hearing panel will be appointed following the Local Body Elections in November.

S. Jones thanked Councillors for their comments on the Paparoa National Park Management Plan Review. She stated that comments were also received from Councillors from Buller District Council. S. Jones advised that changes were made and revised submission was lodged on Friday.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMENTARY ON STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

S. Jones reported that the PCE has examined the way the State of Environment Report was prepared and has made comments and recommendations to the Secretary for the Environment in respect of future reporting.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 TO THE REGIONAL LAND AND WATER PLAN**

S. Jones spoke to this report and advised that this report seeks Council's agreement to notify Plan Change 1 on the Land and Water Plan. S. Jones advised that A. Melrose would make a presentation on the background on the Proposed Plan Change. A. Melrose spoke to her presentation and gave the Committee a detailed history on the Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan and progress to date. She advised that the next step for this plan change is to notify the plan change for public consultation on 22 August. She advised that this will be open for 20 working days. A. Melrose advised that a further letter will be sent out to each wetland landowner who is affected by the proposed boundary adjustment advising them that the plan change has been notified and that Council would welcome their submissions. Further submissions, hearings and appeals will then follow. She and S. Jones answered questions from Councillors. Considerable discussion took place with staff and management contributing. M. Meehan spoke extensively about the work that the Wetland's Co-ordinator has done over the years with landowners and DoC to come up with boundary adjustments. M. Meehan advised that earlier this year A. Melrose phoned the wetland owners that had not responded to letters or previous phone calls at Cr Ewen's suggestion. M. Meehan explained the submission process and the process for wetland landowners to follow to get the best possible outcomes. Cr Robb commented that councillors wanting to sit on the hearing panel would need to be qualified Hearing Commissioners. Cr Ewen asked M. Meehan if he knew how many land purchases have taken place or is underway. M. Meehan stated that there not been many, but there have been a few land exchanges. Cr Ewen asked M. Meehan if he knows how much land is already in Schedule 2 that is on private land and how much land in all three districts that is on DoC which is in Schedule 2. M. Meehan advised that this information could be sent out to Councillors following today's meeting. Further discussion took place. M. Meehan stated that the plan change is a positive step in the right direction and it gives landowners the opportunity to be involved in the plan change and to make a submission, and to be heard at the hearing. Discussion took place on the opportunity to take further legal advice, historic legal advice, and prospects for landowners to get compensation. M. Meehan stated that a lot of work has been done and some landowners have been waiting a long time for progress to be made on the removal of some of these areas. Cr Robb stated that if Council doesn't go forward with the recommendation, and if changes are not made to the Land and Water Plan then the Plan just sits where it is now, and Council has achieved nothing. He stated the 70 or so affected landowners will still be acting under the rules that the Court ruled. He stated that Council did not rule on this matter, the Court did. M. Meehan confirmed that all affected landowners have been contacted by Council staff. M. Meehan advised that as part of the plan change, anyone can make a submission. Cr McDonnell stated that by agreeing to the plan change, Council is not agreeing that the decision initially was the correct one; Council is just fixing up what is not a wetland. Cr McDonnell stated that he prepared to support the changes, but this does not mean that he agrees with the original court decision that has locked up a whole lot of other areas from the landowner to use. Cr Robb agrees with Cr McDonnell. Further discussion took place and questions were answered by staff relating to rules in the Land and Water Plan.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*That the Council approve Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan for public notification, and the accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report, in accordance with Section 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.*

*Carried*

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

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that there have been four exceedances of the NES for air quality in Reefton this winter which is quite low compared to other years.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.5 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that there were quite a few flood alarms during July affecting most of the rivers in the region. Cr Challenger drew attention to an error with a date in this report; the correct date for the Karamea River peak is 26 June. Cr Archer drew attention to the first flood warning activation for the Mokihinui River at Welcome Bay, he asked if worked well from a civil defence perspective. M. Meehan responded that this is the first activation and Civil Defence has a plan in place, with a contact list which filters down into the call tree.

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

*Carried*

#### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 10 non-notified consents have granted during the past month, three variations to existing consents and two limited notified resource consents were granted. Cr McDonnell commented that it is pleasing to see the granting of the resource consents for the new Taramakau Bridge.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That the August 2016 reports of the Compliance Group be received.*

*Carried*

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

G. McCormack spoke to this report. He advised that 44 site visits were carried out, 37 were compliant and seven were non-compliant. G. McCormack reported that 10 complaints were dealt with, five of these were non-compliant and are being dealt with. G. McCormack reported that one formal warning was issued and one abatement notice was issued.

G. McCormack advised that big improvements were observed with regard to the annual aerial inspections especially in the farming sector. He stated that new technology using a tablet is currently being tested for use on dairy site visits. G. McCormack advised that this will then become the prototype for all other site visits including mining and gravel extraction as this new system will assist with data collection. Cr Robb stated that it is pleasing to hear of the good results from the aerial inspections as it has been an extremely wet winter. G. McCormack advised that all farmers will be written to let them know where they are at with compliance and to highlight any areas of concern in order to be able to improve the long term environment. G. McCormack discussed farm visits and spoke of improvements he is making in this area.

M. Meehan advised that consents and compliance staff are currently working with Westland District Council to provide additional assistance at the moment.

G. McCormack answered various questions from Councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger)

*1. That the August 2016 reports of the Compliance Group be received.*

*2. The Council release the bonds for RC2015-0043 Granville Mining Ltd, RC2014-0114 Griffiths Mining Ltd and RC12122 Infants Creek Resources Ltd.*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Ewen drew attention to page 4 of the agenda, regarding the hearing to be held for the Proposed Regional Policy Statement; he spoke of the requirement for Councillors wishing to sit on hearing panels to be certified Hearing Commissioners.

The meeting closed at 11.38 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date