

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.55 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), C. Rae (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGY:

Moved (McDonnell / Clementson) *That the apology from Cr Archer be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 October 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Ewen asked if there has been any further progress with Buller District Council regarding the proposed One District Plan. M. Meehan advised that this matter is going back before Buller District Council on 22 November. The Chairman advised that there is very strong support from Westland and Grey District Councils and the Local Government Commission.

REPORTS:

4.0 VARIATION 3 TO THE WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 – 21

N. Costley spoke to this report. She advised that this work has already been completed but in order for funding to be accessed Council is required to approve the variation. N. Costley advised that the RTC did not see this as needing further consultation as the variation did not trigger the significance policy.

Moved (Clementson / Birchfield)

That Council

- 1. Approves the variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 for the inclusion of the Wangapeka Road Link; and*
- 2. Submits the variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.*

Carried

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that work is progressing well in the Whitehorse Quarry. He stated that rock is also being provided by a neighbouring property. R. Beal advised that the Buller High School is going to use Carters Beach erosion issue as a long term project for the Year 13 geography class. Council's engineer has provided a GPS for the week to week monitoring and Council engineering staff will do the more complicated monitoring.

Cr Birchfield commented that the spur at Coal Creek is working well and pushing the Grey River out into a new channel.

Moved (Challenger / McDonnell) *That the report is received.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that the surplus for the three months is \$484,000. He reported that the investment portfolio has performed well during October. R. Mallinson answered questions and supplied information to Councillors relating to the investment portfolio.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson) *That the report be received.*

Carried

4.2.1 INFRASTRUCTURE DISASTER COVER

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that the infrastructure disaster cover includes Council's river, drainage and coastal protection assets which amount to \$58.1M. R. Mallinson advised that Council was a member of the LAPP Fund but following the 2010 earthquake this became unaffordable for Council. He stated that Council then set up a Catastrophe Fund with the aim of having a portfolio of \$1.5 – \$2M. He advised that the balance in the Catastrophe Fund at the end of September was \$1.031M. R. Mallinson advised that this is a very good opportunity for Council to join to the proposed insurance cover scheme at a reasonable cost. He stated that if Council agrees the existing catastrophe fund could provide the funding for the excess of \$250,000. The annual contributions to the catastrophe fund could be stopped and the interest earned could pay the ongoing AON Lloyds cover premiums. Cr Ewen stated this is very good for the ratepayers of the West Coast. Discussion took place on recommendation number four. It was agreed that the figure of \$170,000 would be removed from the recommendation and the funds from the sale of the land are deposited to the JBWere fund. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors relating to insurance cover. Cr Birchfield stated that the premium cost is very good for the amount of cover received.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That Councillor endorse the participation of West Coast Regional Council in the Aon / Lloyds South Island Group cover scheme with cover of up to \$35 million as part of up to a \$300 million total program limit, from 1 November 2017.*
2. *That annual deposits of \$50,000 to the catastrophe fund cease.*
3. *That income earned by the catastrophe fund be used to fund the annual premiums for the \$35 million cover.*
4. *That Council amends its previous decision to deposit the funds from the sale of the land on the south bank of the Hokitika River from the Catastrophe Fund to the JBWere fund.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and asked Councillors for their thoughts on the Local Government Leader's Water Declaration. Cr Ewen stated that Council didn't sign the climate change document. Cr McDonnell stated that he will be voting against this as he feels the West Coast is in a unique situation and rules would be made to cover the whole country for no benefit to the West Coast. Cr McDonnell feels this

would be onerous and would make things impractical. Cr McDonnell stated that rules are going to be forced upon us and they will not make any difference to our situation. Cr Birchfield is also voting against this. Cr Birchfield stated this is just another tax with air and water both going to be taxed. He feels this will be difficult for farmers. The Chairman stated that the former Minister for the Environment, Nick Smith, was not that inclusive of regional councils so regional councils led this matter to get the water declaration signed to show to the government that regional councils are the leaders in water, as this is what they do. The Chairman stated that this declaration covers the three waters, not just irrigation, but domestic water, sewage water and stormwater. The Chairman stated that the regional sector and all councils in New Zealand need to show that they are united in being part of this. Cr Birchfield stated this is a water tax on the farming community. The Chairman stated it is very important to be part of the conversation regarding this matter. M. Meehan agreed with the Chairman and stated that it is important to be part of this otherwise there is a risk of being lumbered with something. Cr Challenger agreed. Cr Ewen is not in favour of signing. The motion was put.

Moved (Robb / Challenger)

1. *That this report is received.*
2. *That Council's Chairman signs the attached Local Government Leaders' Water Declaration.*

Crs Challenger, Robb and Clementson voted in favour of the motion. Crs Birchfield, Ewen and McDonnell voted against the motion. As there is no casting vote, the motion was deadlocked and did not succeed.

Moved (Robb / Ewen) *That the Chairman's report is received.*

Carried

Franz Josef Rating District – Proposed River Training Work.

R Beal advised that this matter should have been discussed following his operations report. He tabled a copy of a letter and survey form which was sent out to the Franz Josef rating district. R. Beal advised that the rating district committee would like to do river management work on the Waiho River. He stated that the engineering advice Council has received advises that it is unlikely this work would be very effective. Therefore he has sent out a survey to gain feedback from the rating district. Cr Challenger asked what the river training work would consist of. R. Beal advised that the rating district committee would like to make use of the bulldozer that is on site at the moment to create a channel which will cause a gravel bund on each side. R. Beal displayed a map of the area. Cr McDonnell asked if it is likely that NZTA will pay half of the cost of retrieving rock from the river. R. Beal said that he has met with NZTA and they will consider this around the bridge area, as their engineers believe de-armouring the river around the bridge for a couple of hundred metres might be effective, but not all the way to Canavans Knob which is what the committee would like to do. R. Beal answered questions from Councillors. He advised that the committee has recommended a pre-approved budget of \$100,000 for this work. M. Meehan stated that the rating district has been strongly advised to work with NZTA, WDC, DoC, and Iwi in order to manage the river holistically.

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and advised that following on from the meeting with staff from DoC on 13 October, an application as now been made to the Predator Free 2050 Fund for a potential predator free island.

M. Meehan stated the meeting of the Chief Executive's Environment Forum held recently was very interesting with the big topics being water and natural hazards. He stated that the Chief Executive from Bay of Plenty Regional Council gave a presentation on Edgcumbe which was very interesting. M. Meehan spoke of funding matters relating to rating districts and the amount of money in assets that Councils look after for their ratepayers.

M. Meehan spoke of the various other meetings he attended. He spoke of the potential visits from members of the new government.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.41 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date