

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 MAY 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.57 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science and Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGY:**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 April 2018, be confirmed as correct, with the changes made as listed below.*

*Carried*

Cr Birchfield stated that he would have liked all of his comments regarding climate change to have been recorded in the minutes as he disagreed with Minister Parker's comments. Here are the comments made by Cr Birchfield at the April meeting.

*"The Antarctic ice sheet is growing, not melting; There has been no warming for the last 20 years. In fact the earth is cooling. The data has been tampered with; Co2 cannot cause global warming – it is a trace gas; The earth has been cooling since 2001. (NASA data); The Antarctic ice cap has been there for 15 million years. It's 5 kms deep in places. It's been through warm periods in the past. It's extremely stable. It's not going anywhere. The average daily temperature is 58 degrees Fahrenheit below freezing; to get it to melt, you would have to increase the temperature by 100 degrees Fahrenheit. That is just not going to happen; If David Parker is correct, London and New York would go completely underwater and properties there would be worthless. However, the banks are still loaning out on these properties on 40 year mortgages and insurance companies are still insuring them so they are aware the thing is a fraud. Look up Dr Don Easterbrook."*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr Ewen asked if NZTA and KiwiRail received a copy of report regarding Kiwi Quarry. R. Beal confirmed that the reports were passed on. Cr Ewen stated that he would have liked J. Ellis's comments to be passed on to NZTA and KiwiRail.

## **REPORTS:**

### **4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that there was a flood in the Waiho River after the river training work had been completed. He stated that there was no real change in the river apart from the channel becoming a little bit braided near the 55km corner.

R. Beal advised that the resource consent application process for Rapahoe is 90% complete. He advised that the survey work for the sacrificial bund has been completed and engineers are currently working on the costings and design.

R. Beal reported that costings and design work for Carters Beach is close to completion. He stated that similar work has also been carried out in Okarito.

Cr Archer asked if there has been any progress with the coastal erosion at Granity / Ngakawau Hector.

R. Beal advised Council will be applying for a beach nourishment resource consent but engineers are still working on the design, advice, and sourcing rock. M. Meehan stated that one of the findings following the Cyclone Fehi debrief was that some of the rock protection work carried out by individuals worked against them and these people had boulders through their houses. M. Meehan stated that some of these works protected neighbours then directed the sea water at their own property. He stated it will be very hard to gain consent for work that is already in place. Cr Archer stated that Council will need to be upfront about this as events have now superseded some issues and those in the community have varying opinions and willingness for sea protection. It was agreed that an update would be provided to the Buller Mayor, and the Councils and discussion will then take place on where to from here. R. Beal advised that a working group has been formed with Buller District Council to work through how to deal with the dump which has been exposed.

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

*Carried*

### **4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

R. Mallinson tabled an updated financial report. He advised that this is the nine month financial report with the result being a deficit of \$338,000 which compares to the small surplus of \$27,000 which was reported to the March meeting. R. Mallinson outlined the reasons for the deficit including the decline in the managed fund portfolio of \$154,000 during March, the VCS operating surplus and various other one off items, along with the \$100,000 operational expenditure payment for work at Franz Josef. The continuing effect of the two cyclones has cost Council approximately \$82,000 to date. R. Mallinson stated this is a disappointing result. He advised that the investment portfolio rebounded in April with a recovery of around \$160,000. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors. It was agreed that R. Mallinson would invite JB Were, Council's fund managers to a future Council meeting. Cr Archer commented that Council is exposed and vulnerable to the international markets and unless the investment strategy is changed, Council will remain exposed.

R. Beal advised that a ground control contract has been removed from the programme which was scheduled for later in the year. R. Beal advised that he cannot deliver a work programme as yet due to contracts still being under negotiation. He provided an update on the work programme for the coming years. M. Meehan stated that Council has taken a hit on three revenue streams and there is not a lot that can be done about this. M. Meehan stated that financial matters will be discussed further as part of the LTP workshop which will follow on from today's meeting.

R. Mallinson advised that no submissions were received on Council's proposed representation review, and therefore Council's existing representation arrangements will continue as before.

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

*Carried*

### **5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that the meeting with Jonathon Young, Opposition Spokesperson for Energy and Resources was a good opportunity for him to see where mining activities are at on the West Coast.

The Chairman reported that Rodger Findlay, Chairman of the Provincial Growth Fund, attended the Governance Group meeting. Mr Findlay gave a clear understanding of initiatives which will be able to apply to the fund.

The Chairman reported that a lot of the issues faced by the Regional Sector Group are similar to those faced by Council with regard to the change of government. He stated that LGNZ seems to be more engaged in this area.

Cr Birchfield commented that Jonathon Young visits the West Coast quite often and it is well worth spending time with him to discuss mining matters relating to the West Coast.

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

*Carried*

## **6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He stated that at the recent Regional Chief Executive's meeting a letter sent to Minister Parker from this group was discussed. He stated the letter talked about the simple changes that could be made to the RMA to enable a Council to get through a planning process in a much tighter timeframe and without all the appeals. M. Meehan stated that the Minister seems interested in progressing these changes.

M. Meehan spoke of his meeting with LGNZ regarding natural hazards and climate change. He stated that he sees Council's role as helping communities to adapt to climate change and not mitigating in this area.

M. Meehan stated that the Katahitanga mo te Taiao Alliance Project is growing, and it is likely that the West Coast will have its own group but would still connect with Top of the South and Canterbury. He stated this would allow for a more focused discussion.

M. Meehan elaborated on matters relating to Civil Defence on the West Coast including the location for the new Buller Hospital project. He advised that Council will be providing information and reports to the Ministry of Health to assist with this project.

Cr Ewen asked if whitebait has been discussed at the Alliance meetings. M. Meehan responded that it has but there are different views on this matter. H. Mills advised that funding is in place for research into habitat and improving whitebait habitat. He advised that economic development potential will be looked into once the research has been completed.

M. Meehan stated that the Local Government Commission is carrying out consultation and holding hearings for the One District Plan. He asked Councillors if they would like a submission drafted on this matter. M. Meehan stated he is supportive of the development of One District Plan with delivery of this possibly through a joint committee. He advised that currently there is a proposal to form the joint committee to essentially develop three plans. The Chairman stated that this matter will be raised at tomorrow's Mayors and Chairs forum. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that a submission would be drafted in general support of the One District Plan.

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

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.41 pm.

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Chairman

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Date