

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 AUGUST 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.12 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. Beal (Operations Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science and Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 July 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – 7 AUGUST 2018

Moved (Clementson / Archer) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 7 August 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report. He stated that there are two resource consents in place for work at Rapahoe, one for beach nourishment and the other for a sacrificial bund, but this is yet to be applied for. R. Beal stated that the community has been informed that a resource consent is required for the work that was done by the Domain Board.

R. Beal reported that staff will be supporting the Carters Beach community with a Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) application incorporating the airport, Maori tourism strategy and the Kawatiri Trail. R. Beal advised

that if this work goes ahead, a rating district will be required to maintain the works. M. Meehan advised that a PGF application will look at feasibility, and community consultation will be required. If the feasibility study is successful then the PGF would fund the seawall but the community would be required to fund the maintenance of the structure.

Cr Ewen stated that the community group at Rapahoe does not represent all of the community as there are several absentee landlords in this area. M. Meehan advised to date there has not been any community consultation regarding the formation of a rating district at Rapahoe.

R. Beal answered questions from Councillors relating to the works in the Kaniere rating district and Kiwi Quarry.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

R. Mallinson tabled an updated report and advised that this is the interim end of year financial statement to 30 June. He reported that the deficit is \$770,000 which has increased from the previously reported deficit of \$280,000 for the period to May. R. Mallinson reported that the quarry rehabilitation costs have increased by \$100,000, and this may not be the final figure. R. Mallinson stated that this is not a good financial result for Council. R. Mallinson advised that the investment portfolio performed well during June. He answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *That the report, and the supplementary report be received.*

Carried

4.3 TWELVE MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He spoke in detail to the state of environment section and provided further information on each section of the report. M. Meehan advised that Council has initiated an audit of district and regional resource consents over the next 12 months. He stated that there is good news in the Lake Brunner catchment with the TLI still trending satisfactorily. M. Meehan stated that the planning area has been very busy this year. Discussion took place on fuel storage and the need for bulk storage of fuel in the event of a major civil defence disaster. It was agreed that an application to the Provincial Growth Fund for fuel storage would be investigated. Discussion took place on the decline of water quality in some catchments. H. Mills advised that the State of Environment report will be released later in the year which will reveal state and trends for water quality in our region. Discussion took place with questions being answered by the relevant managers.

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

Carried

RPS HEARING PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that following the hearings which were held in May, the Panel have now made their recommendations. He stated that if Council accepts the recommendations then staff will notify the decisions by 17 August. Cr Archer spoke of various sections of the report, and stated that he is fairly satisfied that original outcomes have been met. The Chairman asked J. Douglas if she would like to comment. She stated that she is happy with how the hearing has gone. H. Mills confirmed that the appeal period is 30 working days, therefore the closing date for appeals is 28 September. Cr Archer stated that he is heartened by the staff level of input into the further submission process and engaging with the submitters to achieve a better outcome which has achieved a better consensus of agreement for Ngāi Tahu, iwi and tangata whenua. He stated that the staff input has also been colossal and is to be applauded. The Chairman agreed and stated that the Chair of the hearing committee was very complimentary to staff for their work.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. That the report is received.

Minutes of August Council Meeting –

2. *That the Council accepts the Hearing Panel's Recommendations on submissions to the proposed Regional Policy Statement as the Council's Decisions.*
3. *That the Council approves publicly notifying the Decisions on Submissions to the proposed Regional Policy Statement by 17 August 2018.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that he attended the final meeting of the Governance Group. He stated this group has now been disbanded due to the different approach now being taken with economic development.

The Chairman advised that the pre-conference tour was very interesting with ECAN taking participants on a tour of their region to show some of the environmental issues that they are facing and how they are addressing these matters.

The Chairman reported that he was a guest speaker at the Taramakau Bridge opening, he stated this was a big day for the Coast with a massive amount of people in attendance. He stated this was a celebration but also a demonstration of support for our region.

The Chairman spoke of the National Party roadshow on Climate Change that he attended. He stated that Todd Muller is the Climate Change spokesperson. The Chairman stated that cross party collaboration was discussed with the National Party having bottom lines in this area. He stated that a strong stance is going to be taken on this. Cr Birchfield also attended and stated that the roadshow was very much focused on trade and the competition involved with trade.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and advised that some progress has been made with the One Window work.

M. Meehan reported that Minister Sage is very supportive the work being done with the Lake Brunner predator control project.

M. Meehan spoke of the proposed mining ban meeting he hosted in Westport on 24 July. The Mayors, Chairs and iwi forum members attended, along with industry, Straterra, Minerals West Coast, Go West Coast, Birchfields mining, Bathurst and Stevenson's Group. He spoke of working being done to look at the legal aspects of this, and to work through the key issues in order to prepare a submission for consultation in September. M. Meehan spoke extensively on what can be expected in this area. A further meeting is scheduled for 21 August.

M. Meehan spoke of the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), and advised that this is \$1B for three years, \$3B in total with all monies being accounted for by the middle of next year. He stated that there is a huge opportunity for the West Coast to put good applications forward as there is an opportunity for WCRC to apply for feasibility work which could lead to future PGF applications. M. Meehan asked Councillors if they are happy for this work to be progressed, he suggested sending out a list of potential projects that applications could be applied for. Cr Birchfield suggested that an application is put forward for fuel storage.

M. Meehan explained the One Window initiative and advised this is an action that came out of the original Growth Study, which is to look at a One Window approach to mining applications. He stated that originally it was called "One Stop Shop" but central government did not like this term therefore it was changed to One Window.

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

Carried

4.2.1 STAFF REPORT ON 2018 / 28 LTP CONSULTATION DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He reported that 14 matters were consulted on with a total of 73 submissions received.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

That all submitters be thanked for their submissions.

Carried

Moved (Clementson / Challenger)

That Submitter Number 1, G Rzesniowiecki be advised that:

- (a) Human rights principles are not the role of local government.*
- (b) That Council declines to endorse the Trade & Investment process petition as this isn't the role of local government.*
- (c) Council notes that the government has signalled the reintroduction of the 4 well-beings and we note that Local Government NZ supports this approach.*

Carried

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger)

That Submitter Numbers 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33, 61, 65, 68, 69, 70, 71 72, 73 A Hocken, P Elwell-Sutton, F Inta, J Boyle, WDC, T Skinner, A eaves, C Backes, I Perkins, Blue Penguin Trust, J Caygill, L Burke, A Wright, A Kremer, W Costello, Scenic Hotel Group, D Hawes, P Berry, C Robins, P Dennehy, I Mulholland, P Perrott be advised that their responses to the various issues have been considered together with other submitter responses to the Consultative Document issues.

Carried

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That Submitter Number 7 L Grammer be advised that:

- (a) Council has noted her views on various matters but that it has made no changes to the Long Term Plan.*
- (b) Council believes that other agencies are better placed to manager GE/GMO issues. Council does not have the expertise to consider these matters. If there are issues with regulation it should be taken up with the current regulators rather than adding layers of regulation.*

Carried

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger)

That Submitter Number 3 A Woods be advised that with regard to wasp eradication, Council will advocate with MPI and DOC for them to provide funding and resources to address this issue.

Carried

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That submitter Number 8 GDC be advised that their request is declined. Submitter's attention to be drawn to the economic development wording in the CD.

Carried

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger)

That Submitter Number 9 Tourism Industry Aotearoa be advised that:

- (a) Council notes their advice under the general headings of "things Council could do".*
- (b) That submitter be referred to the economic development wording in the CD.*

Carried

Moved (Challenger / Archer)

That Submitter Number 10 Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility be advised that:

- (a) Fluoride in drinking water is a District Council responsibility.*

(b) With regard to GE and Glyphosate based herbicides, Council believes that other agencies are better placed to manage these issues.

Carried

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

That Submitter Number 11 Community & Public Health West Coast, be advised that:

- (a) Council declines to expand air quality monitoring as requested. Currently air quality is monitored in the Reefton airshed. The results of this monitoring indicates compliance with the NES for Air Quality. Government has indicated that it will notify changes to this standard in early 2019 which may require a change to monitoring requirements.*
- (b) With regard to protection of public and community drinking water supplies, Council will implement changes and recommendations from the various inquiries/reviews where practical.*
- (c) Council declines to reactivate the Warm West Coast Scheme due to the impact on Council debt levels and concerns with regard to quality control of installations.*

Carried

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

That Submitter Number 12 Waikato Regional Council be advised that Council declines their request for funding. Council acknowledges and supports this work, but cannot however allocate funding towards this project.

Carried

Moved (McDonnell / Birchfield)

That Submitter Number 13 Active West Coast be advised that Council declines to reactivate the Warm West Coast Scheme due to the impact on Council debt levels and concerns with regard to quality control of installations.

Carried

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell)

That Submitter Number 14 P Elwell-Sutton be advised that Council believes that other agencies are better placed to manage GE/GMO issues.

Carried

Moved (Clementson / Ewen)

That Submitter Number 19 PSA Submitter to be advised that:

- (a) Council adopts best practice HR policies, including payment of market related salaries, and that it believes its pay practices to be fair and reasonable.*
- (b) Council needs to be a good and fair employer with regards to pay practices in order to be able to attract and retain staff.*
- (c) Council does not intend to sign up to particular pay agreements with third parties.*
- (c) Council collective agreements are subject to negotiation between the two parties (and agents) and Council therefore declines to make agreements with third parties outside of the bargaining cycle.*

Carried

Moved (Clementson / Challenger)

That Submitter Number 20 Toimata Foundation be advised that Council supports the work that the Foundation undertakes however cannot make the funding grant sought.

Carried

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That Submitter Number 21 WMP be advised that:

- (a) Council is aware of these key infrastructure issues and will continue to work proactively with network providers where possible to support and encourage the strengthening of these networks.
- (b) With regard to the provision of funding to DWC, their attention is directed to the economic development wording in the CD.

Carried

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger)

That Submitter Number 32 Fortuna Trust be advised that 1080 is only used by Council in accordance with best practice and strict regulatory controls.

Carried

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

That Submitter Number 70 C Robins be advised that her submission has been considered but that Council cannot agree to close down the Blackball Quarry. Currently there is limited availability of hard rock for the community, and this will potentially become worse under the government policy of no new mines on conservation land. Council appreciates the concerns of the Blackball community, however it needs to balance this important resource and the needs of the wider community. Any new Quarry operator would be required to comply with all the relevant legislation that applies to this activity.

Carried

Moved (Clementson / Birchfield)

That Submitter Number 72 I Mulholland be advised that with regard GE/GMO issues, Council believes that other agencies are better placed to manage GE/GMO issues.

Carried

Discussion took place on the UAGC and civil defence funding. R. Mallinson advised that the revised figure combining both is \$72.50 + GST. It was noted that Council has not had a rates rise in over 20 years. R. Mallinson confirmed that the UAGC is a completely new charge. M. Meehan clarified that the \$72.50 will cover the original intent of the \$50 UAGC plus the increase to civil defence funding. Cr Birchfield stated that he is not in favour of the \$72.50 as he does not want to spend the extra money on civil defence. Cr Birchfield stated that he would like to see some cost savings made internally. Cr Ewen agreed with cost saving measures. Cr Archer asked where these cost savings would be made. M. Meehan stated that he would need to consider cutting staff as he would not be able to deliver all services with the current resources in place. Extensive discussion took place on budgets. Cr Birchfield stated that he is not happy putting a rates increase onto households. The Chairman stated that Council has been struggling for funding and has been dipping into its investment fund, and had Council increased rates a little bit each year, then this problem could have been alleviated. He feels Council is taking a responsible approach and is making sure Council can commit to providing the services our community wants. The Chairman asked each Councillor for their opinions for the UAGC and the \$22.50 extra Civil Defence rate going onto the UAGC. Crs McDonnell, Challenger is in support of both, Cr Birchfield is not in support, Cr Ewen supports the UAGC but not Civil Defence rate, Cr Archer supports both UAGC and Civil Defence as the original proposal was to levy \$36.14 so the outcome currently proposed is less as the \$22.50 is being shifted into the UAGC rate to make it fairer across the board. Cr Clementson is in support of UAGC and civil defence rate. Cr Birchfield stated that he would go with both UAGC and civil defence for the sake of unity. Cr Ewen expressed concern about the use of PR consultants. The Chairman responded that there is a lot happening in the region at the moment and it is necessary to use outside agencies at times, especially with regard to media releases and media statements. M. Meehan stated that he is happy to provide more information on this.

Further discussion took place on the UAGC. Cr Ewen agreed to go with the UAGC and the civil defence rate. Cr Archer suggested minor wording changes to the resolutions, as two components are now being merged with regard to the UAGC and the civil defence rate. Discussion took place on recommendation (c) as it was noted that restoration liabilities for quarries will not be necessary if some quarries are sold.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That Submitter Number 2 Buller District Council be advised that:
(a) That Council is proceeding with introduction of a UAGC.

- (b) *That Council will proceed with budgeted funding of \$25,000 for "One District Plan".*
- (c) *With regard to Climate Change, Council is reallocating funding from Quarries and is investing in more engineering support to address coastal erosion matters. Council is also working on a natural hazards / climate change strategy for the region.*

Carried

Moved (McDonnell / Ewen)

That Submitter Number 4 Federated farmers of NZ be advised that part of the cost of the CDEM capacity expansion will be funded from an additional UAGC \$22.50 + GST, and that Council will consider further funding changes during the 2019/20 Annual Plan process.

Carried

Moved (Birchfield / McDonnell)

That Submitter Number 18 R Arlidge be advised that with regard to Climate Change, Council is reallocating funding from Quarries and is investing in more engineering support to address coastal erosion matters. Council is also working on a natural hazards / climate change strategy for the region.

Carried

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

That Submitter Number 31 C May be advised that her submission has been considered but that Council is proceeding with the introduction of a Uniform Annual General Charge.

Carried

Whole of Waiho Proposal

M. Meehan advised he and R. Beal have circulated a lot of information on this matter. He advised that Council recognised the tough decision this is, but the feedback over a long period of time is that the community wants the rating district joined up in a holistic way. M. Meehan stated that under the current structure it is very hard to move forward and get work done. R. Beal stated that the northern extension was rejected by the existing committee. This would have included the Scenic Circle Hotel and the Westland District Council sewage ponds. Extensive discussion took place. Cr Archer stated that generally Council looks for 70% of ratepayers in favour for the establishment or expansion of a rating district. In this case with 55 against and eight in favour, it is a pretty overwhelming refusal. Cr Archer expressed concern with the concept of rating for a reserve fund. Cr Archer stated that more work with the community might be required in order to get buy in. Cr McDonnell agreed with Cr Archer's comments. Cr McDonnell stated that with the revised proposal and NZTA matching dollar for dollar that suggests that they may not know what their costs are to maintain their assets. Extensive discussion took place, Cr Ewen and Cr Challenger spoke of the importance of community buy in, work done by rating districts and what is expected with the final plans for Franz Josef. M. Meehan confirmed that the recent work done by WDC would come into the scheme and all other work would be included for maintenance. Cr Archer asked if the \$150,000 offer from NZTA is a one off. M. Meehan stated that NZTA do not assist with other rating districts. R. Beal advised that the budget put forward is based on maintenance only and there is no planned works at the moment. Cr Challenger stated that work cannot be planned until the final plan for Franz Josef is made. M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors. It was agreed that striking a rate would be delayed until the next Annual Plan, a meeting in Franz Josef would be arranged with an independent facilitator in attendance and that a commitment to outcomes would be sought. R. Mallinson advised that if Council decides to defer the decision on the rate strike for Lower Waiho, then Council would need to revert to the status quo for rating for 2018 / 19 year. This would mean a rate strike of \$50,000 each for the Franz Josef and Lower Waiho rating districts.

Cr McDonnell suggested that rather than having separate rating district meetings this year, a combined meeting is held and a comprehensive proposal is prepared for this meeting.

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell)

That Submitter Numbers 6, 27, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67 NZTA, T Barke, C Brooks, N McKone, R Richards, G Berry, N Frendrup, T Bruning, J Meldrum, S Tinirau, H Tinirau, R Sharp, C Goodall, N Hende, M Warren, O Morgan, M Nicholson, M Nolan, B & T Morris, D Burrows, J O'Loughlin, J Goodall, B Burrows, P York, D Ferguson, L Skinner, P Cumming, I & K Hartshorne, A Haugh, C Lin, CMR Jones Trust, M Morris, R McLennan, be advised that;

(a) That Council defers changes to the Whole of Waiho proposal until the next Annual Plan, and that the status quo for rating remains (\$50,000 for Lower Waiho and \$50,000 for Franz Josef) for the 2018 / 19 year.

(b) That Council will continue discussions with the communities involved.

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 1.18 pm.

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Chairman

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Date