

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 14 FEBRUARY 2006, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 1.10 P.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

J. Clayton (Chairman), B. Chinn, D. Shannahan, D. Davidson, P. Ewen.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), A. Macalister (Vector Programme Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), J. Butcher (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

#### **1. APOLOGIES:**

**Moved** (Davidson/Shannahan) That the apology from Cr. Scarlett be accepted.

*Carried*

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM (if required)**

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Ewen/Shannahan) That the minutes of the Council Meeting 13 December 2006 be confirmed as correct.

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr. Chinn asked if the media release regarding the audit has been sent. Cr. Clayton indicated that it has not and he would report on this in his Chairman's Report.

#### **4. REPORTS:**

##### **4.1 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Macalister gave a brief overview of this report.

Cr. Clayton overviewed a report to the RAC meeting, which outlined Animal Health Board over-budgeting and the ramifications to the Regional Council as the Vector Manager. A. Macalister indicated that there has been a request from the AHB to make some savings this year, although the quantum of this is not as yet known. A. Macalister reiterated the positive position that the West Coast is in with relation to national AHB funding.

Cr. Ewen requested further information on the Moana North Buffer failed rework. A. Macalister responded that this operation had since passed.

Cr. Davidson asked for the reasoning behind permit restrictions on Block One of the South Westland aerial operation. The reply from A. Macalister directed that the restriction was in relation to the white herons, and this was also in the Department of Conservation permit, indicating that the operation could not be flown until the end of March.

**Moved** (Ewen/Davidson) That this report be received.

*Carried*

#### **4.2 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS**

S. Moran presented this report.

Cr. Clayton expressed his concern at the 5-year certification time. C. Ingle indicated that after speaking with R. Lowe, the possibility of painting the bridge might increase this certification time. S. Moran will follow up on this.

**Moved** (Davidson/Shannahan) That this report be received.

*Carried*

#### **4.3 WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

S. Moran presented this report.

Cr. Clayton indicated that he was pleased with the process associated to this strategy.

**Moved** (Ewen/Shannahan) That Council adopt the West Coast Regional Land Transport Strategy pursuant to section 175(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998.

*Carried*

#### **LATE ITEM**

##### **REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

S. Moran overviewed this report, which updated Councillors on the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting from 24 January 2006. This included maintenance of stock effluent disposal sites and R funding priorities for the 2006/07 year.

Cr. Shannahan suggested that there was a need for the Jackson's stock effluent disposal site, and he also asked for clarification on the ramifications of the campervans using these sites as emptying stations. S. Moran indicated that this had been discussed at the RLTC meeting and there were concerns in relation to the formaldehyde used in the campervan toilets. Cr. Clayton responded that the Hokitika stock effluent is emptied into the town effluent system and as long as the disposal sites are at an urban effluent facility, this should be no problem but the issue will need monitoring. Cr. Clayton suggested that the Districts would have to come up with a joint funding model that will look at the maintenance and ongoing site issues.

**Moved** (Davidson/Chinn) That this report be received.

*Carried*

#### **4.4 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

R. Mallinson presented this report.

Cr. Clayton asked if there would be any recovery of the expenditure variances noted. C. Ingle expressed his concerns at the quantum of Council legal costs but indicated that moves have been made at the recent Regional Affairs Committee to get other regional support for the Council High Court appeal and hopefully, this would offset some of the predicted legal costs. Cr. Clayton briefly spoke of his disappointment at the Department of Conservation appeals, whereby he feels that the Department does not trust the RMA and environment court system, costing the community significant amounts in legal costs. Recovery of costs was briefly discussed, and R. Mallinson suggested that the Executive was making enquires as to options for reducing the overall Council legal costs.

**Moved** (Shannahan/Ewen) That this report be received.

*Carried*

#### **4.5 COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION – 2006/07 INDICATIVE POOL**

R. Mallinson presented this report.

Cr. Clayton asked for further information on the Local Government Commission decision in regards to the number of Councillors. R. Mallinson answered that he expected them to report back after 28 February 2006 and this will be in place for the next Council election.

**Moved** (Ewen/Davidson)

1. That Council adopt the proposed pool allocations for 2005/06 for the Deputy Chairperson and other four Councillors.
2. That Council continue with the "all salary model".

*Carried*

#### **4.6 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTORAL OFFICER**

R. Mallinson overviewed this report.

Cr. Clayton suggested that this was a good example of Local Government co-operating to save costs to the individual ratepayers.

**Moved** (Davidson/Ewen) That Alan O'Connell, Grey District Electoral Officer, be appointment as Electoral Officer for the West Coast Regional Council.

*Carried*

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave a verbal report, including a report on the Regional Affairs Committee, with an overview of the Animal Health Board difficulties with budgeting and a presentation from the Chief Executive (Eugene Bowen) of Local Government NZ discussing the Wellington political environment.

Cr. Clayton overviewed his discussion with the Chairman of the McKenzie District regarding the LTCCP audit costs and investigations done by R. Mallinson into the process. The following Act was isolated: Public Audit Act 2001: Section 42, which indicates that "*the fee's must be reasonable*" and Sub-section 5, which indicates "*if the Auditor General and the Public Entity fail to agree as to the reasonableness of the fee, the matter must be submitted to arbitration and the provisions of the Arbitration Act apply*". A brief discussion ensued as to the costs and options available to this Council. The Council will write to the Minister explaining the issues and work closely with Audit New Zealand closely to minimise costs in the interim. The local Territorial Authorities are very supportive of this Regional Council's stance.

On behalf of Cr. Clayton, C. Ingle briefly spoke on the Flood Mitigation document.

**Moved** (Clayton/Davidson) That the Chairman's verbal report be received.

*Carried*

### **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle presented this report, including an update of issues discussed at the Regional CEO's and Regional Affairs Committee meeting's in Wellington.

C. Ingle spoke briefly on the Shantytown attachment to his report, which requested Council financial support for the Shantytown facility refurbishment.

**Moved** (Davidson/Shannahan) That Council receives the report.

*Carried*

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The meeting closed at 2.14 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date