

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2008,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD,
GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.43 A.M.**

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), P. Ewen, A. Robb, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Birchfield, T. Archer

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), C. Pullen (Animal Health Board), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) that the minutes of the Council Meeting 11 November 2008 be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Chinn asked for further information regarding G. Hilton's appointment to carry out the health and safety function for quarries. Cr Chinn was not present at the November meeting. S. Moran advised that G. Hilton is G. Trenwith's replacement and part of that role is putting health and safety systems in place for council owned quarries.

REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran spoke to his report and took it as read. He drew council's attention to the minor typographical error in the rock quarry.

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *that the report be received.*

Carried

4.1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE RATING DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

S. Moran spoke to this report. He drew attention to the Wanganui Rating District meeting suggestion that each landowner should be in charge of the spraying and mowing of their stopbank and if they don't then the work should be done by the Council and the cost charged back to the landowner. S. Moran advised that there is no legal ability to do this and the most efficient way that this work can be funded is to have it as works under the Rating District Scheme (i.e. as it is now). Cr Scarlett agreed.

Cr Ewen drew attention to the minutes of the Greymouth Floodwall meeting where a staff officer from Grey District Council (Mr Pretorius) had seconded two motions. Cr Ewen stated that the members of the Greymouth Floodwall Committee are elected members only.

Cr Scarlett stated that Mayor Kokshoorn who chaired the meeting, should have prevented this.

Cr Archer asked if Council Standing Orders apply at Rating District meetings and if they do what status do they have in terms of Council Standing Orders. He also asked if two members of the rating district form a quorum. R. Mallinson confirmed that rating district meetings are subcommittees of council therefore two members form a quorum. Cr Archer asked if the council has a vote. Cr Scarlett stated it is the members of the rating districts that have voting rights and councilors in attendance do not vote. C. Ingle stated that decisions made at the rating district meetings are ratified at council meetings and he would be advising Council at the time if any decisions are of concern.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That Council reject the resolution of the Wanganui Rating District **"that the adjacent landowner that leases the stopbank should be in charge of spraying or mowing their stopbank and if they don't then they should be charged by West Coast Regional Council"***
2. *That Council receive and adopt the attached Rating District minutes and endorse all other resolutions.*

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Pullen spoke to this report. He reported that progress has been hampered by rain over the past month but contractors have exceeded themselves during fine weather. C. Pullen reported that all remaining contracts for monitors for 2009 have been awarded. Two out of the five monitors went to local contractors.

C. Pullen reported that Buller South Block 3, Karamea Block 3 and Karamea Block 1 have all have been brought in for their interim completion certificates which suggests control work has been completed and monitoring is awaited.

C. Pullen drew attention to the failed block at Kaiata / Marsden noting that there is a history of high possum numbers in this area. C. Pullen reported that the strata that failed was a bush pasture margin. Rework and re-monitoring has now been completed and the area has been passed.

C. Pullen reported that the two Tb positive possums picked up just outside of Greymouth would go through a Tb focus survey. This will involve radiating a quadrant around this area to see if any other possums can be picked up that are infected with Tb. C. Pullen stated that this would determine how control work and monitoring proceeds for next year.

C. Pullen reported that good results are coming through from the Karamea Block 3 monitor; he stated that over 2,400 possums were eliminated from this area.

C. Pullen spoke of the recent visit to the West Coast by the Directors of the Animal Health Board. He reported that they were impressed with operations here on the West Coast, and he is hopeful of obtaining further funding to extend operations on the West Coast. Cr Robb stated that he also attended this visit. He spoke of the importance of supporting the vector management programme and working toward the goal of eradication Tb on the West Coast. Cr Scarlett stated he would like to see the Animal Health Board front up in terms of media exposure, explaining their position on the Coast. He felt they did not do this well this year. Cr Scarlett spoke of the very good DVD that has been put out by the Animal Health Board. C. Pullen advised that an information pack has been put together; a series of open days will be run from January through to March in various communities. Cr Scarlett asked if the information packs would be sent out to the wider community. C. Pullen advised that the information packs would be made available at the open days.

Cr Archer asked if there is a risk to public health in view of the Tb positive possums found in the Kings Domain area. C. Pullen stated that there is more of a risk to the public's pets than to public health. He advised that the chances of humans contracting Tb through animals is very rare although possible. There is a greater chance of dogs and cats contracting Tb from

vectors that are in the throes of dying from Tb. C. Pullen stated he is working closely with Public Health regarding this matter.

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

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report noting the poor investment income return for the four months especially during October. He advised that he has suspended the programmed transfers from the portfolio to Council's bank account until further notice.

R. Mallinson advised that there is \$977,000 worth of unrealized losses, and if the market turns then those unrealized losses would reduce. R. Mallinson stated that given the under-spending in excess of \$100,000 in a number of areas, the good result from the VCS Business Unit and our strong cash position, there is no immediate cause for concern. R. Mallinson stated that management would be keeping this matter under close review.

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

Carried

4.3.1 FOUR MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2008 – 31 OCTOBER 2008

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and took it as read. Cr Archer stated that these are impressive results, on a focused and measurable and appropriate standard. He passed on his congratulations to staff and management for this excellent report.

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

Carried

R. Mallinson introduced Mr John Mackey from Audit New Zealand to the meeting. Mr Mackey is our Audit Director and is to take councillors through a private session later in the day.

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of various meetings he has attended during the month including the Development West Coast's Industry Advisory Committee meeting. He met with DoC staff to progress the Wetlands issues. C. Ingle attended the Mayors and Chairs meeting with Cr Scarlett. C. Ingle and C. Dall met with management from Solid Energy to discuss future issues and bonding issues. C. Ingle met with personnel from Crown Public Health to discuss things that we have a common interest in including pest control and water and air quality matters. C. Ingle advised that he is aiming to have six monthly meetings with this group.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the half day Civil Defence Training with all staff. He also attended the Wetlands Hearing.

C. Ingle drew Council's attention to the expected costs from Audit New Zealand for the auditing of the LTCCP. He stated the cost is considerably higher than three years ago when they were subsidised to an extent by Government.

C. Ingle stated that he has spoken to Audit New Zealand and advised them that the audit costs are in excess of 3% of our rate take just for the LTCCP audit. C. Ingle feels this cost is beyond what is reasonable. He has been told that that is the law. He is currently in discussions with the CEO from Local Government New Zealand. C. Ingle advised that he has discussed the matter with his colleagues from the four local councils regarding the disproportionate costs to smaller councils.

R. Mallinson advised that our audit fees have gone from \$32,500 to \$62,000 in addition to our normal annual audit fee. This is over a 90% increase.

Cr Chinn stated that Audit New Zealand is out of step with present day thinking and needs to be bought under control. Cr Davidson advised that he spoke to Mr John Key whilst he was on the campaign trail regarding increasing costs faced by councils. Cr Davidson identified the LTCCP is one of these. Cr Scarlett stated we have a good case and he is not prepared to

have constituents lumbered with this cost. Cr Archer stated this is becoming a growth industry and he agrees with the other speakers that it should be collectively resisted with representation being made to the new minister of Local Government. Cr Birchfield agreed that this fee increase is shocking and this money could be spent on roads and bridges.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

Carried

4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the recent Mayors and Chairs meeting. On the 27th of November Cr Scarlett attended the Wetlands Hearing. Cr Scarlett advised that the RAC meeting was being held in Nelson on the same day but he choose to go to the Wetlands hearing as he felt this was more important.

Cr Scarlett advised that the final discussion took place on the Hokitika sewage scheme, this was closed and a decision is forthcoming.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.25 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date