

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.29 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), 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 (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 9 November 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran took this report as read. He advised that tenders close next Monday for the Greymouth Rating District Upgrade. The evaluation of tenders will be done on Tuesday and S. Moran will email Councillors to update them on progress on Tuesday evening.

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

Carried

4.1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE RATING DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

S. Moran spoke to this report. Cr Ewen advised that the minutes of the Inchbonnie and Taramakau meetings are from 2008.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson) *that the Council receive and adopt the attached Rating District minutes and endorse all resolutions with the exception of Inchbonnie and Taramakau Rating Districts, which will be brought to the February meeting.*

Carried

5.1 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report noting that it is the four month financial report to the end of October. R. Mallinson reported that investment returns tailed off in October but were still positive for the month and the investment portfolio returned just over \$649,000 for the four month period. R. Mallinson reported that there were negative budget variances in the general rate funded areas of just over \$30,000, one of the contributing factors to this is the costs of the wetlands variation appeals which are now starting to impact. R. Mallinson stated that total costs to date are just over \$47,000 with the hearing still to come.

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

Carried

5.1.1 FOUR MONTH REVIEW 1 JULY 2009 – 31 OCTOBER 2009

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that it is important to report to Council on what progress is being made on achieving the objectives as outlined in the LTCCP. R. Mallinson offered to answer questions from Councillors. Cr Ewen stated that the outcome of 124 / 125 consents being processed within 20 working days is very good. Cr Archer stated that this is a very impressive report. Cr Scarlett asked if the target of inspecting whitebait stands is achieved or not. C. Dall responded that this is a two year target. Not all stands have been inspected but all rivers or stands where there have been issues have been inspected. Cr Scarlett asked that for consistency purposes achieved or not achieved be put into the report, he sees this target as not being achieved.

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

Carried

5.1.2 REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He advised that Mr John Mackey from Audit New Zealand is present today. Cr Scarlett advised that following this meeting Mr Mackey will have a private meeting with Councillors and he will answer any questions Councillors may have. R. Mallinson advised that two performance measures have been identified in the Annual Report that require attention from the management team. R. Mallinson advised that Councillors had previously confirmed that they are happy with the approach to Risk Management, however in this instance R. Mallinson stated he is recommending that we do not adopt the Audit New Zealand recommendation.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the Audit NZ management report for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received.*

Carried

5.1.3 CABINET DECISIONS REGARDING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (TAFM) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and asked that it be taken as read. He advised he recently attended a meeting in Christchurch regarding the TAFM decisions. He stated that the sector did well with the lobbying against the proposal for referenda which would have cost this Council \$60,000 every three years.

Cr Birchfield asked if the costs of prosecutions are being itemised somewhere. R. Mallinson reported that the total costs of accrued prosecution costs is \$70,000. R. Mallinson advised that he has a breakdown of prosecution costs relating to specific prosecutions which he will present to the in committee section of today's meeting.

C. Ingle advised that from the information he has received from SOLGM and the Regional Affairs Committee meeting it is felt that this TAFM change is both positive and negative. There are

some issues that have been simplified and some new things that need to be done and it is thought that the administrative burden for councils will be about the same that it is now.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He advised that he and S. Moran met with most of the Grey District Councillors on the 13th of November to explain the design for the floodwall. C. Ingle stated that the Grey District Council is the owner of the floodwall and in accordance with our agreement with Grey District Council they manage the aesthetics, the amenity and the access to the floodwall. West Coast Regional Council's function in relation to the floodwall is to keep the floodwaters out of the town. C. Ingle stated this was a very good informal meeting and Grey District Council had some very useful input into how the floodwall could be made to look nicer and be an asset to the town. C. Ingle advised that the floodwall upgrade is scheduled to commence in January / February and should be completed by May. He stated that there will be some disruptions around Mawhera Quay and other floodwall areas during this time but there are other areas where the floodwall is not being raised and there won't be any disturbance in those areas. C. Ingle advised that S. Moran has arranged for a media article to be placed in The Greymouth Evening Star advising the public of what is happening with the floodwall so that there are no surprises once construction starts.

C. Ingle reported that he attended a meeting with the Ministry of Tourism to progress the cycleway proposal for the West Coast. He has also met with the Ministry of Social Development regarding this matter. C. Ingle stated that the cycleway is a big opportunity for the tourism sector of the West Coast if we can have a cycleway granted. C. Ingle advised he is assisting the district councils with their proposals for the cycleway. Grey District and Westland District Councils are joining forces to form a single cycleway rather than two separate ones. He advised there is a separate proposal for the Buller area which goes from the Lyell to Mokihinui, some of these roadways were formed by miners in the early days. C. Ingle stated he feels positive about the Cycleways because of the natural beauty of our area and the variety of landscapes that people will see off the main roads.

C. Ingle stated that the Wetlands court case is taking up a lot of his time.

C. Ingle drew attention to both Council's and VCS's submissions for the Proposed Tb Strategy for the West Coast. He thanked Cr Robb for his input to this and stated that it is important that the West Coast is treated fairly and not left out in terms of the new strategy.

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

Carried

7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting on the 17th of November. Cr Scarlett attended the Regional Affairs Committee, he stated that it was decided that a much more collaborative approach should be taken among regional councils. It was felt that there is a lot of information that regional councils have, in particular for water management and other environmental matters and it was agreed that this information would be pooled for the benefit of not only regional councils but also the rest of New Zealand.

Cr Scarlett spoke of the discussion at the Regional Affairs Committee meeting regarding the role and responsibilities of Local Government in treaty settlements, development and implementation. Cr Scarlett stated that this is borne out of the Tainui settlement from the Waikato, which has the potential to spread right throughout New Zealand, and it was felt that this matter needs to be discussed in committee today.

Cr Scarlett advised that the new proposed AHB Pest Strategy was discussed at the Regional Affairs Committee meeting. He advised the four main points to come out of the meeting were; that local funding is to be spent within each region, the RAC Biosecurity subcommittee and the AHB representatives are to meet on an annual basis to review progress and effectiveness. AHB are to advise funding requirements for the three year long LTCCP period prior to public consultation to ensure council support for the Tb programme. Financial reporting arrangements

will be agreed to meet individual council requirements for example this could agreement to pay the regional funding share monthly, quarterly or biannual progress payments.
Cr Scarlett reported that the Regional Affairs Committee meeting also discussed the matter of regional councils needing to identify more to the general public as a lot of people don't understand what regional councils do. Cr Scarlett feels that the confusion arises because they are not always called regional councils. He gave the example of Horizons and Ecan's names and stated that some kind of branding that relates to the environment and the pooling of information that regional councils hold for the benefit of all of New Zealand would be helpful.
Cr Scarlett stated that he has met with the Chief Executive on various occasions during the reporting period.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.56 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date