

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 JUNE 2009,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 11.08 A.M.**

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), 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:

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the apology from P. Ewen be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting 12 May 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 spoke to his report and took it as read.

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

Carried

4.1.2 DRAFT COMMUNITY OUTCOMES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that this report is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 and relates to LTCCP's, accountability to our communities and measuring progress towards community outcomes. C. Ingle reported that this report is a combined effort by L. Sadler, Policy Analyst, West Coast Regional Council and staff from the district councils who worked together to put one report together for the West Coast. C. Ingle advised that this draft report is going out to all councils and asked that Council give approval for the completion of the report. Cr Archer expressed his amazement that councils are required to report on police and health matters. He stated they are of no relevance and also that no funding is received from central government for this purpose. Cr Archer stated that he appreciates that the legislation says we have to do this and he acknowledged the effort staff have made. Discussion took place on aspects of the health component of the report. C. Ingle explained that there are aspects of the report that require more input from District Councils before final completion.

C. Ingle stated that the only part of the report that he can speak on with any authority is the environmental outcomes, which our council staff prepared.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield)

1. That the "Draft Progress Report on Community Outcomes 2006 – 2009" be received.
2. That the Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve completion of the report, in conjunction with the three District Councils.

Carried

4.1.3 GREYMOUTH FLOODWALL SURVEY

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised that this information was put to the members of the Joint Greymouth Floodwall committee. S. Moran stated that there was a fairly even mix of comments received from those who returned the survey. S. Moran reported that he went through all the returns with the two major concerns being rating matters and alternative options. There were comments around how much would their rates be affected, the ability to pay and also alternative options such as dredging the river. S. Moran reported that 49% went for option 1 and 43% were in favour of either option 2 or option 3. Discussion took place regarding the floodwall and the various options and engineering reports that have been done over the years. C. Ingle confirmed that engineering reports have been completed and experts involved with the design of the floodwall over the years are happy with it. C. Ingle advised Cr Birchfield that engineers' reports are available if he wishes to see them. Cr Archer stated that councillors are not engineers; Council's role is to establish a special rating district and to grant a consent for the process. He added that those on the committee who have reviewed the design, lodged the consent application and are satisfied that the floodwall design is adequate to meet its intended purpose are fulfilling a separate role. C. Ingle clarified that the recommendations from the Joint Floodwall committee are that the Regional Council be asked to adopt option 2 (the \$4M option), that the Regional Council staff be asked to put some information out in the newspaper, questions and answers about some of the rumours and myths relating to the floodwall. The Regional Council were also asked to look at longer term loans to make it more affordable and to write to Mawhera Incorporation to seek additional funding from them. Cr Scarlett suggested that some constructive information could be sent out to the public via the media informing the public that sound engineering advice, the best available, has been sought with regard to the floodwall.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that results are similar to those he has been reporting over previous months. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio improved by \$269,000 during March. He advised that pursuant to the risk management policy adopted by Council we have now renewed our public liability cover at a much less cost of \$18,000. He stated that several years ago Council was paying almost \$50,000 per year for this cover. R. Mallinson advised that Council has changed insurance brokers to Willis NZ and they are attending to the 2009 / 10 renewals. Cr Davidson asked if the investment improvement is caused by the increase in valuation of the shares. R. Mallinson responded that this is correct. R. Mallinson responded to questions regarding the risk management policy from Cr Archer.

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

Carried

4.2.3 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2009 / 19 LTCCP

C. Ingle spoke to this report stating that it was drafted after Friday's hearing of submissions. C. Ingle advised that 83 submissions were received from the public. He advised that Councillors discussed the submissions at the workshop following the hearing and they talked about the reasons for accepting or rejecting each submission. C. Ingle advised that today the decisions need to be formally made. C. Ingle suggested that time is allowed for Councillors to read the minutes from the special meeting.

Councillors took ten minutes to read the minutes of the LTCCP hearings meeting and the decisions recommending report for the LTCCP.

Moved (Robb / Chinn)

That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 5 June 2009 to hear submissions on the Draft 2009/19 LTCCP be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Discussion took place regarding whether or not the LTCCP internal borrowing policy should be amended. Cr Scarlett asked all councillors for their opinions on what the upper limit of the loan should be and whether or not the loan should borrowing should be external or internal.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield)

That Council adopt Option 2 (\$4M) for upgrading the Greymouth Floodwall and authorise any consequential amendments to the LTCCP, and change the internal borrowing policy to enable \$2M internal loan, if needed.

Carried

Cr Chinn against

Submitters no. 1 – 14 submitted on the **World Heritage Drive** (Haast-Hollyford road link). Councillors felt the correct forum for this discussion would be the Land Transport Programme for Southland and West Coast regions. They support the concept in principle.

There were no changes to the LTCCP requested; and there are no changes recommended by staff.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *Support in principle with no amendment to the LTCCP.*

Carried

Submitters no. 15 – 20 submitted on aspects of the **Greymouth Floodwall upgrade**. Several of these submitters spoke at the hearing and detailed responses to these submitters will be made in letters to submitters, answering their individual concerns and suggestions. However, there were no specific requests to amend the LTCCP.

Many were heritage and amenity concerns, some were flood management concerns or scheme re-design suggestions, and one suggests a redesign of the rating scheme. It is not recommended Council redesign anything. The floodwall upgrade proposal raises the height of the existing flood scheme. Altering the overall design, funding or other fundamentals would be an entirely different prospect involving many more costs and risks.

There were no specific changes to the LTCCP requested; and there are no changes recommended by staff. Amenity concerns will be relayed to the floodwall committee.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

Carried

Submitter 21 supported the part of the LTCCP to 'develop new policy approaches that address the long term sustainability of **Lake Brunner**'. Staff recommend this be retained. The submitter also suggested Council develop new Annual Plan projects and time bound performance targets specifically designed to give effect to 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 of the Water Plan. Staff recommend that Lake Brunner matters be given consideration at the workshop after the meeting. There may be a need for new targets for next year's annual plan.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb) *No changes to the current LTCCP.*

Carried

Submitter 22 submitted on **heritage issues** and requested \$5,000 toward a heritage inventory process, and suggested Council budget an unidentified amount to gain access to NZ Archaeological Association site record information.

Council discussed the submission at the workshop and noted that archaeological sites are identified in district plans.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

Carried

Submitter 23 submitted on various **public health matters** and made several specific recommendations and requests, which will be discussed further at staff level. There were no specific requests for amendments to the LTCCP.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

Carried

Submitters 24 to 28 raised the implementation of the **Walking and Cycling** strategy. Many of the points made by these submitters appeared more directed at the district councils and road controlling authorities. It is noted that the Regional Council is not identified as a funding organisation in terms of this strategy.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

Cr Archer stated that one submitter wanted a lot of amendments made to the LTCCP, Cr Archer feels that from an explanation point of view it would be helpful to point submitters to the transport programme that has already been adopted as most of the concerns are addressed in the transport programme. C. Ingle confirmed that more detailed letters would be provided to each submitter.

Carried

Submitter 29 commented on inconsistencies in **fees for dairy farm inspections**. Staff note this long standing difference in charging for land application (permitted activity) discharges vs. consented discharge to water via ponds.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP*.

Councillors signaled that a more consistent approach will be promoted in the next Annual Plan so that other farmers can comment.

Cr Archer stated that he supports that we indicate that we will give this matter further consideration for single inspections fees in the next annual plan.

Carried

Submitter 30 raised a number of issues to do with RMA, SNAs, and ethical investments. These issues were discussed at the workshop. The submitter made specific requests to (i) monitor land development to ensure riparian margins are retained. (ii) The LTCCP fund identification of outstanding landscapes, significant vegetation and habitat by June 2011. (iii) That all overseas investments be required to comply with ethical investment standards.

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP*.

Carried

Submitter 31 wished Council to change to a **land value rating for the TB special rate**. Robert Mallinson advised that he had looked into what difference that would make for other ratepayers and concluded that some ratepayers with large unimproved land areas would be significantly impacted. The submitter would only benefit to a small extent.

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP*.

Carried

Submitter 32 (DoC) supported the LTCCP in particular areas but did not request any amendments.

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP*.

Carried

Submitter 33 (QEII Trust) asked for **rates relief for land covenanted** under the QEII Act, and asked Council to explicitly state in the LTCCP **targets for biodiversity protection**. Council has debated the matter of rates relief in that past and has decided not to award this, for reasons of revaluation costs among other things. The Council has not seen biodiversity as a core function or high priority in past

LTCCP or annual plan processes. It may be a function under the RMA, but Council has discretion to exercise or not exercise that function.

Moved (Birchfield / Chinn) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Cr Archer commented that he wants to be sure that councillors understand that rates relief for land covenanted can potentially make the decisions of District Councils harder because one of those tools or providing incentive to protect areas of significant vegetation on private land is being subsequently eroded. He stated that by saying no, Council is totally deleting one of those tools.

Cr Birchfield disagreed and stated that there is enough land locked up on the West Coast and they should be rated. Cr Archer stated that law says that Councils will protect areas of significant vegetation but the process is how to provide for protection.

Carried

Submitter 34 was a 'thinkpiece' from "sustainable future institute" which is not specific to the Council LTCCP and was received prior to our LTCCP being notified. There is no request for any amendment.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Carried

Submitters 35 and 36 asked for additional funding for the Animal Health Board's TB Free programme for the West Coast. The letter we had from William McCook in December requested \$705,000 for the coming year, whereas they now ask for another \$115,000. Every dollar attracts another nine from Crown and levy payers. Council debated this in terms of community affordability.

Moved (Chinn / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Carried

Submitters 37 to 82 submitted **against the use of aerial 1080**. One submitter asked verbally during his presentation that the VCS business unit be asked to cease aerial 1080 operations, while 2 others indicated similar sentiments in written submissions. Another submitter opposed the Council secondment arrangement with AHB. Most of these submitters also asked for stronger enforcement of controls for poor dairy farming practices, but did not specify further how this was to be done.

None of the submitters requested any specific wording be included in the LTCCP. 80% were in a form submission. The chairman heard some of these submitters and advised them that their submissions needed to address specific parts of the LTCCP to be valid submissions on the LTCCP and that the Council are not a management agency for TB possum control, so their concerns are better directed to the AHB. The LTCCP cannot set environmental policy for RMA consenting processes.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Carried

Submitter 83 asked that Hari Hari be renamed as Harihari throughout the Plan and that the Transport section be amended to acknowledge that the Regional Council are seeking government agreement on more regional flexibility in total mobility criteria. The submitter also mentioned aerial 1080 in water supply catchments and requested Council delete the final sentence under 'significant negative effects of activities' on p 50 of the LTCCP.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

Amend all mentions of the word Harihari in the LTCCP. Add the following to page 34 just before the final sentence: "Note that Council is currently seeking flexibility in this criteria"

Retain the last sentence under 'significant negative effects of activities' on p 50 of the LTCCP. Add the following: "The level of community concern about aerial 1080 operations is acknowledged, but community concern of itself is not considered to be a significant adverse effect."

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of the various meetings he attended during the reporting period including the Mayors and Chairs Forum which was held yesterday. C. Ingle reported the cycleway that the Prime Minister wishes to put up and down the country was discussed at this meeting. A Civil Defence Group meeting was held following the Mayors and Chairs Forum. This was attended by Mr John Hamilton, CEO of Ministry of Civil Defence who discussed priorities and direction into the future.

C. Ingle drew attention to the attachment to his report from Mayor Pugh relating to her visit to Thailand when she attended a conference on Pyrolysis. He advised Mayor Pugh spoke of new technology coming on board, which supersedes Pyrolysis and is called Plasma Technology. Cr Archer stated that there has been a lot of debate on waste management and discussions on Pyrolysis and that we can now lay this matter at rest as the West Coast does not have the volumes of waste to justify this.

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

Carried

4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the meeting of the Regional Transport Committee. He chaired the meeting of the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee on the 25th of May, the Special Meeting on the 5th of June to hear submissions on the LTCCP and yesterday's forum for the Mayors and Chair.

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

Carried

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date