

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2013,  
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD,  
GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.11 A.M.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 9 July 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**REPORTS:**

**4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that annual inspections of council's rating districts are currently being undertaken by Council's River Engineer. M. Meehan reported that capital works have been completed in the Wanganui Rating District. The placement of rock work was carried out by Westland Contractors Ltd.

M. Meehan reported that emergency repair works has been tendered out in the Lower Waiho Rating District. He advised that this work is as a result of further damage to the Milton & Others Stop bank.

M. Meehan reported that council quarries have been very busy, with the Camelback quarry having a large stockpile of rock which will be used up fairly quickly for the seawall at Hokitika. M. Meehan advised that he is mindful of the need to have plenty of rock available in all quarries in case the spring rains cause damage and if rock is required further south then it will easily be available.

Cr Archer asked for an update on the Hokitika seawall. M. Meehan responded that work commenced last week with quarry rubble being placed at the site. M. Meehan advised that the seawall is to be completed in sections and each section will be surveyed to ensure consistency for the entire wall. M. Meehan advised that he will include an update on the Hokitika seawall in his future engineering reports. He stated that he is getting weekly progress updates from the contractors.

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

*Carried*

## **4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that this report is the interim end of year financial result. He stated that the final surplus is well in excess of \$1M. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio eased back slightly in June but most of these losses were made up for in July. R. Mallinson stated that he will be finalising the Annual Report during August and the next financial report will be for two months to 31 August 2013.

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

*Carried*

### **4.2.1 STRIKING OF RATE TO FUND LOAN REPAYMENTS FOR HOKITIKA SEAWALL**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He advised that because this project is outside of the annual plan or long term plan process, this rate needs to be struck separately.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That Council strike a rate of \$136,611 GST inclusive for the year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.*

*First instalment 1 September 2013, final date for payment 20 October 2013*

*Second instalment 1 March 2014, final date for payment 20 April 2014*

*10% late payment penalty.*

2. *That Council agree to borrow \$1,500,000; to be repayable over a 20 year term, and that the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Manager to negotiate the best possible interest rate terms involving entering into a 5 year interest rate swap to fix the rate for the first 5 years.*

*Carried*

### **4.2.2 12 MONTH REVIEW 1 JULY 2012 – 30 JUNE 2013**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that this report feeds into the Annual Report and relates to the targets set in the Long Term Plan from 2012. C. Ingle answered various questions from Councillors. Cr Archer stated that he this is a very good report. Cr Archer asked if management is still of the view that the water quality targets for Lake Brunner can still be met. C. Ingle responded that he believes these targets can be met. The implementation of the new regional plan rules has only really started this year and therefore improvements would not be expected just yet. He stated that the result so far is the same as last year and he would expect the results to begin to improve over the next two to three years.

Cr Archer stated that Marrs Beach is often non-compliant, he asked what steps can or will be taken to identify the source of contaminants. C. Ingle stated that this area has not been looked at in the past. Cr Archer asked what costs would be involved in an investigation. C. Ingle responded that Council's Scientist could do an initial investigation and then report back and council could then decide where to from there. M. Meehan stated that Marrs Beach has never had an in depth investigation but this could be looked at.

Cr Archer asked when a decision is likely on whether or not to proceed with the installation of a new flood warning system on the Mokihinui River. C. Ingle advised that since this target was set there have been other issues that have arisen around NIWA wanting to exit from a lot of the sites that they maintain that council also use for flood warning. C. Ingle advised that these sites are in Karamea, the Buller River and the Grey River and also Whataroa and Haast. C. Ingle stated that this is a resourcing issue that has become a lot bigger and needs to be looked at in a broader context. C. Ingle stated that council is also now receiving a lot of resource consent applications for irrigators in the upper Grey Valley. C. Ingle advised that the hydrology and flood warning budget may need to be stretched to cater to the needs of low flow monitoring. C. Ingle stated that the proposed new site at Mokihinui has now dropped down the priority list. C. Ingle advised that staff are preparing a report to council on this matter.

Cr Davidson stated that there seems to be a media attack about pollution in waterways in New Zealand. Cr Davidson asked if there is a way the council could monitor waterways. C. Ingle stated that council monitors 46 sites in the region and the water quality in West Coast Rivers is significantly improving. Cr Davidson stated he would drink out of most West Coast Rivers.

Cr Archer stated that this is a very good report and he would like council's appreciation to management and staff for the work that has gone into this report to achieve the performance targets.

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

*Carried*

## 5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He reported that he is involved with the SOLGM group looking at planning and accountability mainly focusing on the Local Government Act and Long Term Plans. He advised that this group is looking at proposed changes to the Local Government Act and he is providing a regional council perspective to this group. C. Ingle advised that he is attending the Regional Council's CEO's group meeting in Wellington tomorrow and is expecting to hear more about the latest RMA reform that has just been announced.

C. Ingle reported that at last month's council meeting he asked council to make a resolution to amend the financial strategy which is contained in the Long Term Plan, to increase the financial cap to enable borrowing. He stated that council's Auditor contacted him to advise him that a change is not required to the Long Term Plan and it might be simpler if this is adopted as a council policy to relax the caps, but a formal plan change is not made. C. Ingle advised that following public notification of the amendments, there were no formal submissions received. Because no submissions were received and the plan change does not need to be completed, there are no further actions needed on this matter.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council agrees to adopt the publicly notified amendments to Council's 2012 – 22 Long Term Plan, as Council Policy, but not to complete the changes to the Plan itself.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

Cr Scarlett reported that he attended the Local Government New Zealand conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Cr Scarlett stated that there were some very good speakers at the conference.

Cr Scarlett reported that he attended the meeting for the Hokitika seawall on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July along with his fellow councillors. Cr Scarlett reported that he chaired a mining consent hearing on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.

Cr Scarlett, C. Ingle and a group of chair's and CEO's from around the region, met with the Minister of Transport, Hon Gerry Brownlee, to discuss R Funding for transport. Cr Scarlett stated that R Funding is the only regional funding for transport, and this ceases by 2015. Cr Scarlett advised that the West Coast receives about \$1.5M annually in R funding which is divided between Buller, Grey and Westland. Cr Scarlett felt that this was a very positive meeting and he is hopeful that the Minister will ensure that R Funding remains in place for the West Coast after 2015.

Cr Scarlett stated that he dealt with general constituency matters during the reporting period.

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

*Carried*

## 7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.41 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date