

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MAY 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.52 P.M.

#### **PRESENT:**

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, A. Birchfield, N. Clementson

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

**Moved** (Ewen / Archer) *that the apology from Cr Challenger be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

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

**Moved** (Clementson / Archer) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 14 April 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr Ewen asked if there has been any progress with the money Grey District Council is to pay into the Red Jacks Rating District's account. M. Meehan advised that Grey District Council need to take this matter to their council meeting for approval.

#### **3.1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Moved** (Birchfield / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 23 April 2015, be confirmed as correct, with the amended date to the footer at the bottom of the minutes.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

C. Ingle advised that the LTP submission period has now opened; five submissions have been received to date.

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a small amount of emergency work has been done in the Taramakau and Mokihinui rating districts. He reported that there is now a lot more rock in the Whataroa quarry following recent development work.

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

*Carried*

## 4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this report covers the nine month results to the end of March. He advised the surplus is \$274,000 and is an improvement on the eight month report. R. Mallinson advised that just under \$90,000 spent on developing the Whataroa Quarry has been capitalised.

R. Mallinson advised that he will be looking very closely at how project funding is accounted for. He stated that when income from organisations such as MfE and DoC is received, the project can sometimes run over more than one financial year. An example is last year when \$196,000 was received from MfE, this entire amount was included as revenue in the 2013 / 14 year but only \$63,000 was actually spent in that year. R. Mallinson stated that this can result in a mismatch for that financial year.

R. Mallinson advised that the final Audit New Zealand Report has now been received and is attached to his report. He stated that Audit has recommended that Council dispenses with some of the pages in the Long Term Plan; these pages are the Cost of Services Financial Statements which is no longer required under the Local Government Act.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

- 1. That this report be received.*
- 2. That Council agrees to establish a Reserve Fund amounting to \$132,000 @1 July 2014, which will be used to fund expenditure on the Lake Brunner Project work during 2014 / 15 and 2015 / 16.*
- 3. That Council receives the report from Audit New Zealand regarding the Long Term Plan Consultative Document.*
- 4. That Councillors note the intention to dispense with the Group Activities Financial Statements as recommended by Audit New Zealand.*

*Carried*

## 5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported that the Mayors and Chairs Forum was held yesterday. He advised the Hon Damien O'Connor was in attendance.

The Chairman reported that the Land and Water Forum (LAWF). He stated that LAWF has been reformed. The Chairman advised that regional councils are represented on LAWF by two very good representatives who are both from the South Island.

The Chairman advised that he attended the meeting for the Visiting Drivers Governance Group, in Christchurch. He reported that there were presentations from various organisations on what work programmes might be carried out. Cr Archer asked if there is any likelihood of legislative changes. The Chairman responded that possible drivers licence testing is possible but at this stage there does not appear to be any will from the government to make any legislative changes. He stated the main thrust is safety improvements such as rumble lines, more direction arrows, better positioned rest areas, improved signage and better information on suitable stops for photo opportunities and views.

The Chairman advised that the May Day Forum held in Blackball recently was very well received. He stated that he and the Buller Mayor both spoke at this forum and spoke of getting the region back into the growing state rather than risking going into a declining state.

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

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report and took it as read. He advised that he spoke at a Development West Coast Business breakfast recently. The Chairman also attended this meeting. C. Ingle reported that he spoke about the Regional Policy Statement and the direction that Council is going in with RMA matters. C. Ingle stated that there were quite a few people in attendance and there was a lot of interest from the attendees on what Council is doing.

C. Ingle advised that there are quite a few new things happening with the Regional Sector Group. He stated that the amount of effort going in from regional councils and MfE with the regard to the NPS for Freshwater is massive. C. Ingle advised that this Council is not directly involved as we have a good

handle on any freshwater management problems in this area and things are going in the right direction for the West Coast.

C. Ingle advised that a press release for work being done in Lake Brunner may be considered and this could then go onto the LAWA website. He stated this is a good way for Councils to share progress from their regions.

C. Ingle reported that LGNZ's new Environmental Policy and Advisory Group is about to commence work on a thinkpiece, to see if the RMA is fit for purpose for the next few decades. C. Ingle stated that the thinkpiece LGNZ did on hazards has been well received by the Ministry of Civil Defence and they are now using this.

Cr Archer expressed his concern about the letter to the Editor in the Westport News regarding Development West Coast and their funding strategy. Cr Archer asked if there has been any feedback on whether or not this negative reporting is likely to have any adverse effect on the relationship that this council has built with Development West Coast. The Chairman advised that there was discussion on this at yesterday's Mayors and Chairs Forum and one of the big factors is about the money that Development West Coast has. The Chairman stated that this money is not a big game changer, Development West Coast is looking long term but he feels that relationship is good. The Chairman stated that there is a perception that \$100M is a lot of money, but in terms of the West Coast economy it is not a lot of money in a long term approach. He stated a new industry is what is required.

Cr Archer asked if there is a strategic plan regarding a coast wide roll out for Broadband. C. Ingle advised that there was a meeting yesterday following the Mayors and Chairs Forum. He advised that there is a group led by Buller Mayor Garry Howard, and involving council staff from all four councils, DWC and the Polytechnic who are coordinating an application for funding. C. Ingle advised that the West Coast is ranked number 1 or 2 nationally for receiving funding for not only Ultrafast Broadband throughout the whole region but also for mobile phone blackspots throughout the region. He stated this has been well supported by all four councils.

C. Ingle advised that in the past funding for this type of thing has been population based but now this is not the case. He stated that it is important for the West Coast to get this funding for tourism, civil defence reasons. C. Ingle advised that Council's Civil Defence Manager is one of the people on this team that will make sure the message gets through so that we don't end up with an alpine fault earthquake scenario where people are trapped in places between Franz Josef and Wanaka, with no ability to contact them. The Chairman agreed with C. Ingle and stated that we get a lot of visitors to the region, we are a small region and this type of infrastructure needs to come from central government. The Chairman stated that the Buller Mayor has done a lot of work on this and Buller will benefit from this as well. C. Ingle stated that this is a region wide issue and the whole region will stand to benefit from better Broadband and cell phone coverage. The Chairman stated that DWC is also behind this initiative. C. Ingle advised that Council's IT Manager is also involved with this project.

C. Ingle advised that an MOU on economic development was signed off yesterday by the Mayors, Chair, and DWC. He stated that the relationships between the parties are very sound and any disagreements are openly discussed at these meetings and consideration is always given to what is best for the regions ratepayers.

**Moved** (Clementson / Archer) *That this report is received.*

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Archer advised that he attended a civil defence meeting last week in Westport. He noted that work is being done on an evacuation plan for Westport should there be a major flood event. Cr Archer stated that a successful evacuation plan is dependent on early notification and advance warning for a flood event. Cr Archer asked what is council's process for early warnings and to assist with the earliest possible notification. M. Meehan responded that there is already a flood warning system in place for Buller that will give advanced warning. He stated that people always will need as much advanced warning as possible to fully evacuate the town. M. Meehan stated there are other things that Civil Defence can do along with a good flood warning system and staging areas. He stated that this is being worked through with emergency services. M. Meehan stated that council is looking at ways of improving flood forecasting in the Buller catchment which may lead to improvements elsewhere such as a product called Eco Connect which NIWA uses. This will potentially give more lead in time for these types of events. He is also looking at what other councils do as they use different models; he is also considering additional monitoring sites in areas where there is not a lot of rainfall data. M. Meehan stated that it has been acknowledged that the flooding warning team has given very accurate information of when flood waters are going to peak using the information they have at the moment. C. Ingle stated that there are parts of Westport that would not be under water even in a 100 year flood event, and these could be used as staging areas. Cr Archer stated that it is well known where the low lying areas are and where the higher areas are within Westport. C. Ingle advised that deaths result

from a combination of depth and velocity of water. M. Meehan advised that a further meeting is scheduled for this coming Monday.

The meeting closed at 11.42 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date