

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.03 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 9 August 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to his report and took it as read. He answered various questions from Councillors.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *that this report is received.*

Carried

4.1.1 PROPOSED NEIL'S BEACH REPLENISHMENT

R. Beal spoke to this report. He tabled an updated report with photographs that were taken last week during an inspection by Council staff. R. Beal stated that the mouth of the Arawhata River is still flowing to the north; this was identified as a contributing factor to the coastal erosion issue in the NIWA report, which was commissioned earlier this year. R. Beal advised that there is no sand dune protecting the properties in front, and there is a downhill run to these houses once the waves come over this area. R. Beal stated that the damage is extending along the south bank towards Jacksons Bay, trees are dying and being stripped as the waves come in. He stated that there is pooling of sea water with debris and driftwood getting close to the houses, septic tanks are also at risk. R. Beal displayed a photograph of the proposed emergency works which includes the construction of a seawall at 1.5 metres high to add some temporary protection to this area. R. Beal stated that the results of the opinion survey that was sent out to the community were inconclusive, therefore further information will

be sent out and a public meeting will be arranged shortly. M. Meehan agreed that the community feedback is quite mixed with a 50/50 response rate of those wanting to proceed with the work proposed. He stated that at times there are 5 – 6 metre swells during king tides which cause considerable damage, and these tides have changed the situation recently. M. Meehan advised that a longer term approach would be to provide some temporary work and to look at facilitating relocation of the properties that are impacted by coastal erosion. M. Meehan advised that this has been discussed with the community and some are receptive to this. He advised that there is land that these homes could potentially be relocated to. M. Meehan stated that this type of problem is not isolated to Neil's Beach, there are issues in Dunedin, Hawke's Bay and Sydney was also recently in the news after suffering damage due to coastal erosion. M. Meehan stated this is a national issue and government advice is needed for long term strategies. R. Beal and M. Meehan answered questions from councillors and clarified matters relating to photographs and maps. Discussion took place on where to from here. R. Beal confirmed that he has received numerous phone calls from affected residents, he stated that opinions are split and there are a lot of questions about how effective the work will be. R. Beal stated that after reading the NIWA report, whatever work is done, will only be temporary in nature and is only buying time until the retreat option is fully investigated. Cr Archer agreed, and stated that a managed withdrawal is mentioned in the report but most communities are reluctant to go down this path. Cr Archer stated that communities need to make some big decisions and there are no guarantees, as in the next five years the coast could accrete. M. Meehan stated that a workshop with councillors will be held in the near future to work through what can be done in these types of situations. He stated that although each is on a case by case basis, and each community is going to want to deal with it slightly differently. M. Meehan stated that some of the houses in this area are on piles and they could be relocated in a staged approach. M. Meehan stated that whatever work is done, is only temporary, including the installation of a seawall. Cr Archer asked if there is land available that the houses could be relocated to. M. Meehan advised that there is DoC land and Maori owned and private land back further from this area. He stated that initial discussions with these landowners have been receptive to this and they have attended recent community meetings. Cr Birchfield stated that the Arawhata River brings a lot of gravel down, and if the gravel could be directed so that it deposits a lot the frontage then this could help the beach rebuild. Cr Birchfield stated that the river is moving north and not depositing on the settlement. He suggested putting a cut through to try to direct the river south then the beach might rebuild. R. Beal advised that the NIWA report does recommend putting in a cut but it also notes that the damage done in the last 4 – 5 years is going to take 30 years to fix which is why the beach nourishment needs to go hand in hand with the cut. R. Beal stated that the NIWA report also advises that these measures are only temporary and buying time. Cr Archer asked what the \$5,000 includes in the first recommendation. R. Beal stated that this figure is an error and should be <\$15,000. M. Meehan advised that Council does have a small budget for these types of works, but the intention is if the rating district is formed then this money would then be recovered from the rating district as part of the beach nourishment work. M. Meehan advised that it will be hard to keep the cut open without a decent flood. Cr Archer asked if the area cross section area of the stopbank in photograph G is to become a sacrificial wall. R. Beal confirmed this and advised that it is uncertain how long this would last. M. Meehan spoke of the sacrificial wall at Mokihinui and advised that the community are aware of how this functions. He stated that Council will be very clear with the Neil's Beach community on how this will work for them. M. Meehan advised that the correct term for this is a sacrificial bund and there are no predictions on how long it might last. R. Beal stated that the immediately affected properties are very keen to see this work go ahead but it is yet to be spread around the wider community. The Chairman asked if based on the survey results, are the property owners closest to the beach keener on progressing work than other property owners. R. Beal confirmed this. The Chairman asked M. Meehan if the only mechanism for retrieving the money spent is to form a rating district. M. Meehan agreed and stated that he and R. Beal are proposing to have further consultation with the community and to provide a report back to the October meeting. The Chairman stated that 57%, over half, want to go ahead with the work. Cr Ewen asked where is the material from the slips near Jacksons Bay being carted to. M. Meehan stated that some of this material was pushed into the coastal area, which is a good thing, and this material has been looked at for Neil's Beach. Cr Archer stated that he supports the establishing of a rating district but community buy in is required on the funding apportionments. Cr Birchfield stated that the settlement is saveable and he is in favour of beach nourishment. Cr Clementson stated that looking at the photographs he feels that the conditions look right to go ahead and it may hold. He is happy to proceed with the works. Cr Challenger stated that he has attended the public meetings and agreed that the majority of the community do want something done but they want to know how much this work is likely to cost. Cr McDonnell agreed, and stated that the more work that is done the more it is going to cost. Cr Archer stated that it needs to be made very clear to the community that even the beach nourishment is a sacrificial thing and it only has a limited lifetime. M. Meehan confirmed that the Arawhata River is included in the permitted activity rule where the mouth can be opened without a resource consent.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That Council undertake small scale (<\$15,000) engineering works to provide temporary protection to properties at immediate risk of inundation.*
2. *Council provide more detail regarding the proposed mitigation works and resurvey the community, including facilitating a public meeting.*
3. *Staff provides a report to the October Council meeting, recommending a way forward.*

Carried

4.1.2 PROPOSED NORTHERN EXTENSION OF PUNAKAIKI RATING DISTRICT SEAWALL

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that the opinion survey results were not conclusive. R. Beal advised that further information will be sent out to the community, which will address survey comments. He will then bring a recommendation to October Council meeting. The Chairman stated that there has been further damage since the opinion survey was sent out. R. Beal confirmed that emergency works were completed as a temporary measure. M. Meehan advised that NZTA are trucking spoil from the recent slip at Meybille Bay to the Punakaiki Camping Ground. M. Meehan advised that cost of the material to the rating district is minor, only the cost of a digger on site placing material. M. Meehan answered various questions on the financial implications for the rating district. M. Meehan stated that at the public meeting a conversation will be had with the community on the current rate which is \$95,000. M. Meehan gave a history of the rating district's financial situation since it began in 2006. M. Meehan advised that just under 60% of respondents want to proceed with the works, but further information needs to be gathered prior to going ahead with the work. R. Beal and M. Meehan answered questions from Councillors. Cr Archer commented that there are a lot of the same issues as Neil's Beach, and other locations, where money needs to be spent if they are to be retained. Cr Archer stated that all of the consultant reports are saying exactly the same thing, "plan for long term withdrawal". Extensive discussion took place. M. Meehan stated that cost benefits need to be discussed, and good information needs to be provided to the community so that they can make an informed decision. M. Meehan feels that there needs to be good justification in building more seawalls in the future as they are expensive for a community and the ongoing maintenance costs are very high. He stated that once a seawall is built, then there is an obligation that it will be maintained in the future. Cr Archer agreed with M. Meehan. The Chairman stated that Council's role is to keep good factual information in front of communities, and to make the best decisions it can based on the feedback from the community. Cr Birchfield stated he would like Council to get on with the work, he stated that any rock that comes from Meybille Bay is a bonus for the rating district. He feels this work is becoming urgent. The Chairman stated that this is an existing scheme that has been extended and Council needs to be seen to be fair to everyone who contributes and benefits in the rating district. Cr Archer stated that he supports the proposal but he wants the community to have another say. Cr Clementson stated that the community needs to agree to pay for the works. All Councillors agreed that the work needs to go ahead with buy in from the Community. Cr Archer would like to get an early response from the community so that early feedback from the community can be received in time for the October Council meeting. Cr Clementson stated that the price for the work has been lowered as a result of the rock source at Meybille Bay.

MOVED (Archer / Ewen)

1. *That Council staff advise the community that the Council supports the current proposal but wishes to get more community support and that Council provides more detail regarding the proposed mitigation works, costs and feedback on extending the rating district boundary, and re-survey the community, including facilitating a public meeting.*
2. *Staff provides a report to the October 2016 Council meeting, recommending a way forward.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson advised that there is no financial report this month, due to the time he has spent getting the Annual Report to an audit ready state. R. Mallinson reported that Audit NZ staff will have audit opinion available by 4 October for Councillors to adopt at the October Council meeting. R. Mallinson reported an interim deficit of \$454,000 to the August meeting. R. Mallinson reported that the Westpac Investment Portfolio rebounded strongly in July but not so strongly in August. R. Mallinson reported that in accordance with Council's Risk Management Policy, all risk covers were renewed on 30 June. R. Mallinson advised that NZ Mutual Liability Riskpool is in the process of exiting from the marketplace as it is not a viable proposition in the long term due to the number of Councils it has lost in the last year, including Auckland City Council. R. Mallinson advised that Council's Public Liability & Professional Indemnity cover is now with NZI. Cr Archer asked R. Mallinson if the cover with NZI is similar to what Council had with Riskpool. R. Mallinson responded that the NZI cover is just as good, and there is no possibility of further calls in later years. He stated that the premiums are cheaper than Riskpool.

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

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that the two meetings he has attended for the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group have been very good. The Chairman advised that N. Costley has taken on the Communications role for this group as our contribution.

The Chairman reported that the report for the West Coast Growth Study will be released on 20 September with Ministers Joyce, Adams, Bridges and Flavell attending the launch. The Chairman advised that the next stage will be keeping the work of the Governance Group going and getting into the Action Plan and getting some real traction behind the report. The Chairman stated that the Growth Study has been a very worthwhile exercise and if the councils and agencies on the West Coast get together and put some impetus behind this, then growth for the West Coast can be achieved, especially in the tourism area.

The Chairman reported that the work around the Visiting Drivers Project Governance Group will assist with putting cases forward for better safety on our roads and putting proposals forward for new projects.

The Chairman reported that there has been a lot of discussion at the Regional Sector Group meetings on how regional councils are perceived throughout New Zealand. The Chairman advised there was good discussion on pest management matters at this meeting.

The Chairman reported that he chaired the recent meeting held in Franz Josef with the Community Working Group. This meeting was also attended by staff from MfE and MBIE who are involved with the Growth Study. He stated that this was a very good meeting and the government staff were able to see for themselves the issues faced in Franz Josef. The Chairman stated that Franz Josef tourism is key for the West Coast, and for New Zealand.

Moved (Robb / Clementson) *that this report is received.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He reported that K. Stratful, Council's Regional Economic Development Manager, presented at the Mayors and Chairs Forum on 8 August. K. Stratful provided a detailed analysis of the vision and branding for tourism and the goal of taking it from a \$430M a year industry to a billion dollar industry in five years. M. Meehan stated that with the predictions, the work in progress and the alignment with Tourism West Coast, he feels very positive that this is will happen.

M. Meehan spoke of the meeting he attended with the Westport Waste to Energy group. He advised that Mayor Howard is currently in the UK investigating the social side of what has been done in the UK in this area.

M. Meehan reported that he attended a meeting at Grey District Council with the Regional Harbourmaster. He stated that the Buller Harbourmaster also attended. M. Meehan advised that to date this Council has not taken a role in this area as the district councils have managed this. M. Meehan stated that Harbourmaster's are difficult to find and the West Coast is fortunate to have a Harbourmaster based in Westport.

M. Meehan reported that he was Group Controller for Exercise Tangaroa on 31 August. This exercise was based on a tsunami scenario. He stated this was a good exercise and one that tested the group and the districts well.

M. Meehan attended a meeting with New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals in Wellington recently. He spoke of the work being done to align processes in this area. He also met with Hon Nathan Guy on the same day, to discuss the work done by MPI with regard to border security for pest plant and animal work. M. Meehan stated that it was felt that the recent work done with Velvet Leaf could have been better managed and it is hoped this can be improved.

M. Meehan stated that the Franz Josef Working Group meeting was positive, and the government officials in attendance gained a good understanding of the work in this area.

Cr Ewen asked M. Meehan if he felt there would be any movement with the fee increase for mining permits following his visit to New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals. M. Meehan responded that the Minister seemed firm on his viewpoint, and that the fees will be raised and will have impact on the industry and on quarry fees for this council.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen asked if Council has notified WorkSafe of all of its quarries. M. Meehan confirmed this.

The meeting closed at 12.12 p.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date