

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.23 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning, Science & Innovation Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Logan Skinner and Grant Gibb from Franz Josef attended this section of the meeting. The Chairman stated that under Standing Orders, there has not been a specific request for a presentation, and the time allowed is three minutes per person. He therefore put it to Councillors if they were prepared to allow time for issues to be aired.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that Logan Skinner and Grant Gibb be granted 10 minutes to address Council.*

Carried

The Chairman clarified that a presentation can be made, Councillors can ask questions but there is to be no debate and decisions will be made by the full Council.

L. Skinner addressed the meeting. He stated that he feels there has been no real progress on the ground with long term plans for the Waiho River. He expressed concerns about economic development for Franz Josef and stated that Franz Josef is key to the tourism sector for the West Coast. L. Skinner stated that there is still no glacier access at Franz Josef or Fox. He is concerned that Franz Josef will become a dead town and people will not invest in Franz Josef until issues with the Waiho River are sorted out. L. Skinner stated he wants to have open dialogue and two way communications from Council. L. Skinner spoke of issues around rock, including recovery of rock from the river, having a rate card, cartage of rock, the tender process and the use of rock from the Waiho Loop glacial moraine.

G. Gibb addressed the meeting and advised that he represents the Franz Josef township and rating district. He stated that the rating district is very aware of the issues with the river and that solving these is a major problem. G. Gibb acknowledge the Tonkin & Taylor report which advised that doing nothing was not an option. G. Gibb gave a history of flood events over the past few years and stated that the recent river training has helped and without it the road at Canavans Knob could have been lost during the March flood. G. Gibb spoke of the amount of rock that has been washed down the river and where it is now sitting. G. Gibb stated that he is hoping that rock pricing will be to hand shortly so that this can be tendered for as the banks need to be beefed up as soon as possible. G. Gibb stated that the rating district is keen to get the 2015 stopbank alignment project back on the table again. He explained how this project could work. G. Gibb stated that once the stopbank from the church to the 55km corner is completed then there would be surety back in the town and the town is then protected. Cr McDonnell asked G. Gibb questions about what work has been done in the river over recent times, including recent work done by NZTA, and the river training work as well as questions about various work that has been proposed over the years. G. Gibb stated that planning needs to be in place by the August or September annual meeting. He stated that he is hoping for help from central government.

Cr Archer asked G. Gibb and L. Skinner who he was representing. G. Gibb stated that he is representing the Franz Josef rating district which is the township of Franz Josef. L. Skinner stated that he is representing the same group. Cr Archer asked both if they have a mandate to come to council to express their concerns or their personal concerns. G. Gibb stated that they are both representing the Franz Josef rating district and they are proposing that no major works will be signed off until it goes back to the whole of the Franz Josef rating district. L. Skinner stated that he is joint spokesperson, along with Ian Hartshorne, G. Gibb is on the rating district committee and they both have mandate from this group. L. Skinner stated that there are various groups in Franz Josef but they all link in together and often attend each other's meetings. Cr Archer advised that if work is required to be done by Council then it will go through a tender process as there is no other way of doing this and if it is too slow then it is what it is. Cr Challenger asked if the 2015 alignment was the one that goes straight off the heliport stopbank. G. Gibb stated that it veered towards the Scenic Hotel. Cr Challenger spoke of the proposal that was put to the rating district for a stopbank to be built in this area prior to the Scenic Hotel being washed away. Cr Challenger stated that the problem with this stopbank was that people did not want to pay for it. G. Gibb stated that this was deemed to be overpriced. Cr Challenger spoke of the link from the Heliport to the NZTA stopbank. G. Gibb stated that there is concern that if the flood breaks over the top then there is nowhere for it to get back out again. G. Gibb stated that they are now hoping for a compromise in this area. Cr Challenger stated that there is now the upgraded NZTA stopbank, the Havill wall and all of this side is now protected. He stated that there is going to be an upgrade from the church down to the heliport stopbank but this is a private stopbank. Cr Challenger expanded on these works. The Chairman stated that this discussion is more suited to the rating district. The Chairman asked for further questions. The Chairman asked L. Skinner if he has got specific issues to ensure that he goes through the manager and to ensure that proper procedures are followed so that Council can deliver the service required. G. Gibb stated he is keen to put a line in the sand and to make progress. The Chairman advised that Council employs the Chief Executive, who employs the staff and managers. L. Skinner stated that this is not personal about staff and as they were here at previous meetings they would like a long term plan now. Cr Birchfield stated that this is the fourth time groups from Franz Josef have spoken to Council and there is a failure somewhere with communications and this needs to be addressed. Cr Archer stated this is not the Council's opinion. Cr Ewen stated that he supports Cr Birchfield. The Chairman thanked L. Skinner and G. Gibb and advised that Council would respond in due course.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no changes requested.

Moved (Challenger / Archer) that *the minutes of the Council meeting dated 9 April 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 24 APRIL 2019

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no changes requested.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) that *the minutes of the Special Council meeting dated 24 April 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Ewen asked if there has been any progress with insurance. M. Meehan stated that a meeting was held yesterday with the Ministry of Civil Defence staff who provided further feedback and they are keen to visit the site in three weeks' time. M. Meehan advised staff now have more clarity on what might be covered, interim claims can now be placed. He stated that 40% cover is being sought from Aon,

Council's insurer, and 60% from the ministry, with \$250,000 being approved from the Catastrophe Fund to fund the insurance excess. M. Meehan stated that like for like is the main area where certainty is being sought. Cr Ewen asked if this is being communicated to the Lower Waiho rating district. M. Meehan confirmed that R. Beal is having weekly meetings with the rating district and keeping them up to date with the insurance claim.

REPORTS:

4.1 OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to his report and advised the LiDAR results are due this week and it is expected the results will reveal that the river has aggraded significantly at the eastern end around the bridge and township. He stated that it is expected that there will be a requirement to raise the sides of the stopbanks in this area.

R. Beal advised it was agreed at a meeting on 25 March that a new design and alignment from the Heliport wall through to the 55 km corner. This was the day before the flood event therefore this work has not yet been progressed. R. Beal advised that following the weather event, visiting engineers suggested that a 3 /1 batter on the town side by the Heliport wall might be a better investment rather than immediately raising the walls. R. Beal advised there are three pieces of work to be presented to the Franz Josef rating district which are; raising the walls, the 3 / 1 batter and the new design and alignment for the stopbank from the heliport to the 55 km corner. R. Beal has advised the rating district that an external consultant will be brought in to progress this work as Council does not have the staff resources for this work.

R. Beal reported that work is evolving in the Lower Waiho rating district with the biggest issue being rock supply. He stated that the rating district wanted a bigger floodwall but there are prohibiting factors with insurance as they will only replace like for like and not betterment. Shortfalls of costs from insurance claims will need to be covered by the rating district. R. Beal explained what work is to be progressed and spoke of the difficulties being encountered with rock recovery for both rating district. M. Meehan advised that the priority is to place rock on the Milton & Others stopbank and not to stockpile it, he stated that a tender was put out for rock recovery work for this area and to try to speed this process up. R. Beal and M. Meehan answered questions from councillors regarding rock recovery, rock sources and the types of machinery being used. R. Beal advised that around 7,000 tonne of rock has been recovered with some of this being used for groynes. He stated there is an error in his report, it is the true right, not left, that they are trying to keep the river on. R. Beal explained progress to date with work for the Lower Waiho rating district and advised that staff have been holding weekly meetings with the rating district. He advised that a written agreement from Franz Dairies Ltd is being arranged for floodwalls on their property.

R. Beal advised that approximately 160,000 tonne of rock is required between all agencies for work required. He stated that quarries are likely to produce around 10,000 tonne of rock for the month. R. Beal advised that he will be bringing a new business model for quarries to the next Council meeting. R. Beal answered questions from Councillors. Cr McDonnell advised that he spoke with Peter Dennehy last night and he confirmed that he is reasonably happy with work to date. Cr McDonnell requested that the words "Southside Rating District" be replaced with "Lower Waiho Rating District". This was agreed to. Cr Birchfield stated that it is a good move to use recovered rock from the river as cartage costs from Whataroa are expensive.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *That the report is received.*

Carried

4.2 BUILDING ACT FUNCTIONS IN RELATION TO DAMS

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that this Council has previously transferred this function to Otago Regional Council. She advised that there are three regional authorities with Building Act accreditation, unitary authorities also have this function. H. McKay advised that it is currently uncertain whether or not Otago Regional Council intends to retain its accreditation on an ongoing basis to this Council and Environment Southland. She stated that Environment Canterbury is also accredited and they may be willing to pick up this service. H. McKay advised that for WCRC to become accredited it would cost upwards of \$50,000 in the first year and then tens of thousands for subsequent years to retain accreditation. It was noted that WCRC has only had one application in under the delegation to Otago

Regional Council. H. McKay explained the way forward and advised that the best option for Council is to negotiate with Environment Canterbury and to also prepare and undertake the special consultative procedures required to do this. H. McKay advised that she is currently seeking a short extension as 30 June is the expiry date of the current agreement.

Cr Ewen suggested that a back stop option could be considered with Tasman District Council in view of the Waimea Dam project.

Moved

(Archer / Challenger)

1. *That Council receives this report; and*
2. *That Council directs staff to enter into negotiations with Environment Canterbury for the transfer of the West Coast Regional Council's Building Act Functions to Environment Canterbury;*
3. *That Council directs staff to prepare documentation for, and undertake, the special consultative procedure under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and advised that this is for the nine months to the end of March. He reported that the investment portfolio continued its recovery during March and total gains during January, February and March have almost offset the December quarter reversals. He advised that the portfolio also increased a further \$250,000 during April. R. Mallinson advised that the deficit is \$610,000 but he is hopeful this will be wound back by the portfolio continuing its strong recovery. R. Mallinson advised that the purpose of amending the Council Investment Policy is to secure the best possible interest rates. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors relating to economic development and VCS's financial return.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That the Council combined Treasury Policy (containing Investment and Borrowing Policies) be amended to provide that the provision in 4.3 relating to Council debt and refinancing risk be amended to include the words "where practicable" and the % be amended from 40% to 60%.*

Carried

4.4 ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that the report summarises the legal requirements. He advised that the work "audited" needs to be removed from the first recommendation as this is an error. Cr Ewen would like to see the words "Tai Poutini" under the West Coast Regional Council's name. Cr Ewen said he would like this underneath Council's name. M. Meehan stated that he has sought advice on this, he asked Councillors if they would like to go through a process to do this. The Chairman suggested that iwi is consulted to ensure that they are in agreement. The Chairman stated that Council would need to adopt this and it would need to be formalised. M. Meehan stated that H. Mills has been working with Makaawhio, Ngati Waewae and Ngai Tahu around the RMA and how the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements have been worked through and this might be the best place to put this through. M. Meehan advised that it was felt that staff did not have permission from Council to put Tai Poutini in the document. Cr McDonnell noted that Cr Ewen has brought this up on numerous occasions, he suggested that Cr Ewen puts a paper up to Council so it can actually be voted on and a decision can then be made. M. Meehan suggested that this matter is dealt with via the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe collaboration with local Iwi.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That Council formally adopt the Consultation Document for the 2019/20 Annual Plan.*

2. *That the Consultation Document be formally notified on Friday 17 May 2019.*
3. *That the consultation process run from the notification date of 17 May 2019 until 17 June 2019.*
4. *That Council hold Public Hearings on the submissions received in response to the Consultative Document at a Special Meeting on 21 Friday June 2019.*
5. *That Council hold a Special meeting following the Public Hearings on 28 June 2019 to confirm the 2019/20 Annual Plan after having considered the matters raised in the public submissions.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that he will be attending another meeting in Wellington tomorrow with the Freshwater Advisory Group. He advised that implications for this region are more related to timing issues for FMU's rather than water quality itself. The Chairman advised that the Regional Sector Advisory Group are working hard to ensure that the Minister receives the best possible advice on this matter.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and agreed with the Chairman regarding the Freshwater Advisory Group. M. Meehan advised that the Minister is very determined to make progress on the Freshwater NPS.

M. Meehan advised that the recent meeting of the Joint Committee for Civil Defence Emergency Management went well and was followed up with a meeting with DIA and MBIE which he and S. Bastion, Chief Executive of Westland District Council, attended. M. Meehan advised that he and S. Bastion are asking the government to accelerate matters relating to Franz Josef as government support is required with regard to a master plan for Franz Josef.

M. Meehan reported that Council's submission on Grey District Council's Annual Plan is focused around their ongoing commitment supporting One District Plan and Civil Defence. He stated that submissions have also been made on Buller District Council and Westland District Council's annual plans.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

1. *That this report is received.*
2. *That Council approves the attached submission to the Grey District Council 2019 / 20 Annual Plan.*
3. *That Council approves the submissions to Westland and Buller District Council's 2019 / 20 Annual Plans.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.38 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date