

3.1

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28 APRIL 2020, HELD ON 28 APRIL 2020, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 COMMENCING AT 12.25 P.M.

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chairman), S. Challenger, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin

IN ATTENDANCE:

R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), M. Schumacher & J. Hawes (IT Support).

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

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 / Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council meeting dated 10 March 2020, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 MARCH 2020

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

Moved (Ewen / Coll McLaughlin) *that the minutes of the Special Meeting dated 26 March 2020, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 COVID-19: Economic Recovery Infrastructure Submission

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that funds have been released and Council has been asked to submit on projects to be done to assist with economic recovery with regard to infrastructure and environmental enhancement projects. R. Beal stated that this submission is on Crown Infrastructure with the focus on what could be done to benefit the community and ratepayers on the West Coast. R. Beal outlined each of the projects in the submission which are Franz Josef flood protection with total estimated cost of \$24.4M, with funding sought of \$19.8. He advised that staff have been working with the Westport 2100 Working Group on a flood warning system for Westport with design work from Matt Gardner (Land River Sea) being done in 2017. He advised that total costs of this work is \$500,000, and full funding is sought. R. Beal advised that Hokitika flood protection is included with total costs of \$3M, funding sought for \$2.5M. R. Beal advised that design work from Matt Gardner is required and is expected within the next two to three weeks. R. Beal advised that the Greymouth flood protection works which includes stage 2 of planned infrastructure works to protect the township and surrounding areas is included at a total cost is \$2.58M, with full funding. R. Beal answered questions. Cr Challenger stated that the extension for Hokitika seawall should go down to the end of the residential properties in Richards Drive. R. Beal advised that this has not been included in the submission as the Hokitika Seawall Joint Committee has also requested that staff design and cost for an extension of the existing sea wall down to Richards Drive to provide long term protection to the residential area and make an application to the Crown Infrastructure Projects fund for funding this work on behalf of the Rating District,. R. Beal stated this was not submitted on but was requested at the Hokitika Seawall committee meeting which was held two weeks ago. R. Beal advised that a design or costing for this extension has not been done yet. Cr Challenger spoke of a drain in this area that will need to be taken into consideration. Cr Hill asked R. Beal if the Westport project is spade ready, and if the shortfall of \$2.5M that is being sought for funding would be supplied by a special rating district. R. Beal advised that the timeframe for spade ready project is within three months, but as the design work is almost complete, it is likely that the timeframe would be met. R. Beal advised that a consent application would be required, with the project could be done in stages with the raised bunds and stop banks done first prior to consultation with the community on the concrete floodwall. R. Beal advised that to give projects the best chance of going ahead 20 to 30 % would be required to be met by the rating district and other stakeholders like NZTA and BDC for the Westport projects. Cr Coll McLaughlin asked if the funding is contingent on completion, and what might happen should a project fail, or not be finished. She expressed concern about the risk of funding being declined or jeopardised and asked if funding or costs can be recouped, or would it fall back on Council to pay. M. Meehan advised that risks with funding would be mitigated by Council not progressing a project unless there is guaranteed funding. M. Meehan advised that Council has applied to a huge government fund, which has been applied for by the 78 councils plus private industries with over \$100B worth of applications that have gone forward. He stated that projects with a lot of favour are those that are shovel ready and create jobs, and most of the projects applied for, are shovel ready. M. Meehan advised that the Westport project does require more work, but this is mainly around consenting. He stated that if projects are to proceed Council would want guaranteed funding. Cr Coll McLaughlin asked if funding can be staged to ensure that this funding does not need to be paid back. M. Meehan advised that Council has tried to be strategic with these funding applications and have connected in with district councils and industries to ascertain which bridge upgrades they would like to see advance. He stated that Council has focused on realistic projects in the main towns, and not unrealistic or nice to haves. M. Meehan stated that this is an opportunity for Westport to progress flood protection work that has been talked about since floods during the 1970's. He said this is a way of getting work done using a grant with the community stumping up some money.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin / Challenger)

1. *That Council receives this report; and*
2. *That Council supports in principle the proposals submitted as part of this funding bid.*

Carried

M. Meehan advised that council has been invited to submit to other funding avenues, he has circulated a list of environmental projects that have been put forward to Councillors. He stated that due to the current climate this has happened quickly, but he will put papers to a future Council meeting for consideration.

4.2 2020 / 21 ANNUAL PLAN REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised this is an update on the annual plan 20/21 and budget process. He stated that prior to lockdown staff were ready to bring recommendations to Council but have now put aside the recommendations for increases in the uniform annual general charge, and general rate

along with the new Rating District charging regime to better reflect the cost of Council engineering staff and Infrastructure insurance costs. He stated that staff are committed to delivering a zero rate increase in the 20/21 Annual Plan, this includes the emergency management rate, One District Plan targeted rate. R. Mallinson explained the table in his report and advised of the likely impacts. He stated that with the subject to decisions yet to be made relating to the One District Plan (TTPP) there are total budgeted revenues of \$14.5M. He stated with the exception of One District Plan, Council may get away with borrowing less than \$0.5M worth of borrowing. R. Mallinson advised that Council consulted on funding for the One District Plan funding in the 2019 / 20 annual plan year. He stated that Council is not required to take the 20/21 Annual Plan to public consultation, given adherence to the LTP envelope and recent 19/20 Annual Plan consultation on One District Plan. R. Mallinson answered questions from Cr Coll McLaughlin relating to funding received from the Local Government Commission.

Moved (Challenger / Ewen)

1. *That Council agrees to a zero increase in the General Rate, Uniform Annual General Charge, Emergency Management Rate and One District Plan Rate for 20/21.*
2. *That Council agrees that it will not publicly consult on the 20/21 Annual Plan, given that it is within the envelope of the 2018/28 Long Term Plan and that it publicly consulted on ODP funding in the 19/20 Annual Plan.*
3. *That actual budgeted expenditures and revenues be finalised once details of the actual ODP budget request are received from the TTPP Joint Committee.*
4. *That Council agrees to borrow up to \$750,000 to cover any funding shortfall in 20/21.*
5. *That the 20/21 Annual Plan be adopted by Council at the June 2020 ordinary meeting.*

Carried

4.2.1 Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA)

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and advised that there have been various changes to the Deed. He advised that this Council does not have any CCO's, and PCR LP is not a CCO as Council only has a minority shareholding of 49%. R. Mallinson advised that in order to implement changes required to agree to deeds of requirement. He stated that WCRC is not a shareholder of the LGFA. R. Mallinson advised that electronic signatures would be required. It was agreed that Crs Birchfield and Ewen would provide their electronic signatures.

Moved (Cummings / Magner)

1. *Receives and notes this report on various changes to the Local Government Funding Agency.*
2. *Approves Council's entry into the documentation noted in that report.*
3. *Authorises any two of the Council's elected members to execute the following deeds for the purposes of:*
 - 3.1. *Amendment and Restatement Deed (Multi-issuer Deed); and*
 - 3.2. *Amendment and Restatement Deed (Notes Subscription Agreement).*
4. *Authorises the Chief Executive to execute the Chief Executive Certificate and such other documents and take such other steps on behalf of Council as the Chief Executive considers it is necessary or desirable to execute or take to give effect to recommendations above.*

Carried

4.3 APPOINTMENT OF WEST COAST REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this is a procedural report. It was noted that Cr Ewen is the deputy chair of this committee.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin / Magner)

1. *That Council receives this report.*

2. *That Council confirms the following appointments to the West Coast Regional Transport Committee:*

- *Cr Allan Birchfield (RTC Chairman)*
- *Cr Peter Ewen (RTC Deputy Chair)*
- *Mayor Jamie Cleine to represent Buller District Council*
- *Cr Peter Haddock to represent Grey District Council*
- *Cr Ian Hartshorne to represent Westland District Council-Mr Jim Harland to represent the New Zealand Transport Agency.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman stated that he has participated in a lot of meetings and dealt with various media inquiries. He attended a Zoom meeting with Mayors, Chairs and iwi and Minister Shane Jones and Hon Damien O'Connor. The Chairman stated that the possibility of DoC stewardship land being opened up for mining was discussed but it was clear that there is no show of this happening under the current government. He stated this might happen after the election. The Chairman advised that figures from Minerals West Coast for the period between 2008 and 2018 the West Coast produced 854,000 ounces of gold, at today's price this is worth \$2.3B. He advised that the figures for coal produced on the West Coast during this period is 21 million tonnes of coal and at today's price this is worth over \$5B. The Chairman stated there is a lot of opportunity for the West Coast in this area. Cr Hill asked is it just mining the Government / Greens object to and would they look at the transfer out land out of stewardship for other businesses. M. Meehan advised that the windblown timber Bill was put back on the table, but the focus is on projects that will produce jobs immediately to get the economy moving. Cr Hill asked if the government is looking at aqua and horticulture, he stated he is disappointed that mining is being knocked back but would like to know how they feel about other sectors. Cr Coll McLaughlin asked if the impression was if the government was against extractive industries on stewardship land or broader than that. The Chairman stated he feels they do not want land touched. Cr Hill commented that this could rule the West Coast out of the billion dollar tree fund as do not have the land for this. Cr Cummings asked if the Ministers mentioned Punakaiki and rail funding. M. Meehan responded that Minister Jones made it clear he is still supporting the Provincial Growth Fund but is looking at what is ready to go and anything that is not ready will go out.

Moved (Hill / Cummings) *That this report is received.*

Carried

6.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and advised that the last few weeks have been very different due to the impacts of Covid-19. He spoke of the numerous Zoom meetings he has participated in with DWC, Civil Defence, and linking in with staff on a regular basis with the focus on the health and safety and wellbeing of staff and the community. M. Meehan advised that today as New Zealand goes into level 3 the Council office will remain shut. He stated that staff will now be able to carry out field work with VCS, resource science out in the field today. M. Meehan stated that while under level 4 flood warning and engineering staff were able to continue work under strict protocols with regard to the wearing of PPE and to ensure physical distancing during both levels.

M. Meehan stated that going forward a big focus will be to continue to ensure that council is open for business for the receiving and processing of resource consents and to work with community to ensure business continuity as this will be a significant part of recovery post Covid-19. He advised that Council has been processing resource consents under Level 4 and will continue processing resource consents that come forward from Council for the flood infrastructure projects and for other projects will are likely to be kicking off.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 1. 07 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date