WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2025 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.07AM

PRESENT:	B. Cummings (Chair), A. Campbell, C. Coll, P. Ewen, P. Haddock, M. McIntyre.
IN ATTENDANCE:	D. Lew (Chief Executive), J. Field (Group Manager Office of the CE), P. Miller (Group Manager Corporate Services), G. Palmer (Acting Group Manager Catchment Management), C. Mills (Project Accountant – via Zoom), T. Hopkins (Capital Programme Manager), P. Blackwood (Chief Engineer – Catchment Management – via Zoom), S. Hornblow (Natural Hazards Analyst), T. Wyndham-Smith (Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor), R. Barrow (Executive Assistant – via Zoom), D. Thompson (Principal Governance Advisor), S. Hoare (Inovo Programme Manager).

1. Welcome *(Haere mai)*

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies *(Ngā Pa Pouri)*

Moved (McIntyre / Haddock) *apologies for F. Tumahai (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae) and P. Madgwick (Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio) be accepted.*

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair called for declarations of interest.

Cr Haddock declared interest relating to Franz Josef and Greymouth.
Cr Campbell declared interest relating to Wanganui.

4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations *(He Huinga tuku korero)*

There were no public forums or deputations.

5. Confirmation of Minutes (Whakau korero)

5.1 Minutes of Operations Committee Meeting 18 March 2025

The Chair invited corrections to the minutes of the 18 March 2025 meeting. No corrections were noted.

Moved (Haddock / McIntyre*) that the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting of 18 March 2025 are a true and correct record.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Actions list

The actions list was reviewed and the following updates were noted.

- Item 1 – Complete; in this agenda. Item can be removed from list.
- Item 2 – Ongoing *(noted as Complete in error in the agenda when it should have been In progress)*; will come to the Committee in May 2025.
- Item 3 – Complete; in this agenda. Item can be removed from list.
- Item 4 – Ongoing.

Moved (Haddock / McIntyre) *that the Committee receives the Actions List and noted information.*

Carried

7. Chairs report (verbal update)

The Chair reported on several meetings attended during the past month, noting positive outcomes across all engagements.

- Attended a meeting at Wanganui, where increased trust was evident compared to earlier engagements, along with positive conversations.
- Participated in the Westport Rating District Joint Committee meeting, which had a positive outcome with local residents speaking at the start of the meeting.
- Attended the Resilient Westport Steering Group meeting the following day, which also yielded positive results.

- Reported that the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) representative was impressed with progress despite time constraints and acknowledged the obstacles faced.

Moved (McIntyre / Haddock) *that the Committee receives the Chair's update.*

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Monthly Catchment Management Report

G. Palmer presented the Monthly Catchment Management Report, highlighting several key areas of progress:

- Rating district meetings have concluded, with staff now progressing actions that don't require Council decisions.
- Rating district asset inspections have shown significant progress:
  - Completed inspections increased from 9% to 24% in the past two weeks.
  - Partially completed inspections increased from 24% to 38%.
  - Overall, more than 60% of rating districts are now either fully or partially inspected.
- Natural hazards work has seen a significant increase in LiDAR elevation data coverage for the Coast.

Councillors requested to see the five conditions used in lessons from Wairoa and G. Palmer advised he would pass this on. They also requested that the Orowaiti River be included in future investigations of potential river mouth management sites – P. Blackwood said this has been previously investigated and undertook to provide this information to Councillors.

Historical context was provided on New River, noting development in the Coulson Road area has exacerbated flooding issues by converting swampland to subdivisions. This development has increased the speed of water entering the Saltwater Lagoon, contributing to flooding problems. The question was asked how other regional councils address these issues and the answer was through planning processes. Councils typically require 100% mitigation of additional stormwater generated by new developments.

D. Lew proposed an action for staff to review provisions in the TTPP regarding subdivisions and engage with Grey District Council on future developments that could exacerbate flooding.

P. Blackwood presented an update on the Westport Flood Protection Scheme project, noting that his report was written on 28 March 2025, with several developments since then. He reported continual favourable progress across multiple workstreams.

Key project updates included:

- Lower Buller North End and Eastons Road: Expanded into initial design phase with proposals for geotechnical investigations to be commissioned shortly. Pro Drill scheduled to begin work the week of 28 April.
- Mckenna's Stop Bank: Completed successfully. Consideration being given to potential overlays to mitigate uplift.
- Buller River (upstream of bridge): Seepage and stability modelling proceeding. Rock protection designed for the land by O'Conor home, requiring larger rock than used at Organs and Kawatiri due to high outside bend velocity.
- Floating Lagoon: Consultants Davis Ogilvie working on final geotechnical design report with detailed assessments of contamination from previous railway use and potential mitigation options.
- Averys: Design completed. Resource consent application being prepared.
- Lower Orowaiti: Working on preliminary engineering and scoping of geotechnical investigations.
- Carter's Beach: Modelling the bridge in 2D to assess whether proposed mitigation works would address the 7cm rise at the bridge. Continued engagement with NZTA is important.
- Snodgrass: Still working on funding options.

Discussion followed, with the main points raised being:

- It was suggested building the Buller River upstream wall to a certain level rather than completing the entire works at once, which P. Blackwood agreed to discuss with the modeller. P. Blackwood explained that for every cubic meter of water displaced by stop bank construction, approximately 80-85% is retained in the river with 15-20% moving to the opposite bank. Other issue is efficiency and economy of cost.

- KiwiRail land: Some places on KiwiRail land need to be tidied and this will require consent (i.e. Cat's Creek extension, Stevens Road and Nine Mile). A meeting is already planned with KiwiRail to discuss Stevens Road.
- There is a need for coordination with KiwiRail at multiple intersection points across the scheme for protection of KiwiRail assets and the Westport township and an early meeting between Council and senior level leadership of KiwiRail is suggested. Staff have been asked to put together a table of where the scheme will intersect with KiwiRail land, noting some exact alignments are not yet known.

Moved (McIntyre / Campbell) *that the Committee receives the report.*

Carried

8.2 **Management of River Mouth Openings**

G. Palmer presented a paper on improving the operational management of river mouth openings. The paper originated from the Resource Management Committee meeting in October 2024, where information about river mouth openings and a potential work program was initially discussed.

The proposed programme aims to make river mouth openings more responsive while avoiding or mitigating environmental effects and ensuring safety. The paper outlined a 10-part program (refer page 45 of the agenda), which includes:

- Engaging with territorial authorities to clarify and confirm respective roles and responsibilities.
- Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and methodologies for river mouth opening work.
- Improving monitoring systems.
- Improving and adding trigger levels for rivers.
- Considering changes to the coastal plan to make river mouth openings more enabling.

G. Palmer noted that many elements of the proposed program are not currently budgeted for, e.g. global consent. If endorsed, staff would return to the committee in two months with a more detailed programme, including timing and costs.

During discussion, Councillors raised questions about:

- The potential for a global consent application, with G. Palmer explaining this would be considered as part of the programme.
- The appropriate use of emergency works provisions under Section 330 of the RMA, with G. Palmer clarifying these should be used sparingly and only for genuine emergencies, not for reasonably foreseeable events.
- The need for both consents and clear guidance for staff on when emergency provisions might apply.

G. Palmer explained that while a permitted activity status in the coastal plan would be preferable, this approach was previously rejected by stakeholders. Any global consent application would likely require at least limited notification to the Department of Conservation and iwi.

Moved (Haddock / McIntyre) *that the Committee*:

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Endorses the proposed improvement programme; and*
3. *Notes that parts of the programme are subject to future decisions of Council regarding scope, funding and priorities.*

Carried

Cr Ewen voted against this motion.

8.3 Natural Hazards Information Strategy and Implementation Plan

G. Palmer presented the Natural Hazards Information Strategy and Implementation Plan, noting he was speaking as the author of the strategy which was commissioned by Council last year and substantially completed by Christmas, prior to him taking on the role of Acting Group Manager Catchment Management.

[11.09am – Cr Haddock left the room]

The presentation brought forward two documents for endorsement: the strategy document itself and an implementation plan detailing how the strategy would be delivered over the next ten years. G. Palmer explained that the strategy primarily fulfils Council's responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, while also helping fulfil responsibilities under the Local Government and Official Information Meetings Act and the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act.

[11.11am – Cr Haddock returned to the room]

He highlighted three key diagrams in the report:

SWOT Analysis - Identifying:

- Strengths: Commitment to planned improvement, fit-for-purpose GIS platform, valuable historical information and strong community relationships.
- Weaknesses: Poor systems for storing and accessing information, with no single repository for all information.
- Opportunities: Heightened community awareness of natural hazards and external information gathering at no cost to ratepayers.
- Threats: Litigation risk if information management is inadequate and the dynamic physical environment causing information to quickly become outdated.

Strategy Diagram - Outlining:

- Current Problem: Council has significant hazard information that is difficult to access, with unknown gaps in information.
- Vision: "The public, stakeholders, and Council have ready access to quality information on all relevant natural hazards for all exposed communities in the West Coast region."
- Five objectives with associated measures to track achievement.

Implementation Plan - Showing:

- Work streams grouped according to the five objectives.
- Timeline spanning ten years, with minimal activity in the current year.
- Increased activity in years 2-3 within current budget constraints.
- Significant ramp-up in years 4-10, requiring additional resources.

Concerns were expressed about funding implications and potential duplication of previous work, with Cr Ewen specifically referencing a comprehensive report by John Bean from 15-17 years ago that mapped flood and landslide situations across the West Coast. It was noted that the first phase of the project includes scoping information which already exists and then identifying gaps for information which might need to be commissioned in the future.

D. Lew provided assurance that for the next couple of years, all activities in the strategy and implementation plan would use existing resources and budget, with the GIS system redesign serving as an enabler. He noted that substantive new activities were deliberately scheduled for the next Long-Term Plan to allow Council to weigh priorities.

Discussion also covered:

- Council has a responsibility to provide accessible hazard information to property owners.
- Various types of hazards including flooding, landslides and lake tsunamis.
- Potential cost-sharing with other councils who would benefit from the information

Moved (Haddock / Ewen) *that the Committee*:

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Endorses the Natural Hazards Information Strategy and Implementation Plan; and*
3. *Notes that the Strategy and Implementation Plan will inform development of the Draft 2027/2037 Long Term Plan.*

Carried

8.4 **Wanganui Rating District Review of Financials and Reserves Balance**

[Cr Campbell declared an interest in this item and did not vote]

C. Mills presented a report on the ongoing review of the Wanganui Rating District reserves balance. She reported that the review is progressing well and is expected to be completed by 30 June 2025, with only one or two more meetings with the rating district committee needed to close out the process.

Key developments:

- On 31 March 2025, C. Mills attended a meeting with NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) where it was confirmed there is no expiration date for lodging claims.
- The review has identified that the event at Percy's Bank has never been claimed for with NEMA and staff are now working through this process.
- It was discovered that Wanganui is designated as a maintenance scheme only but capital works have been undertaken.

- Historically, landowners have not been invoiced in the agreed proportions for capital-related works, which has affected the reserve balance.
- Once landowners are invoiced for capital works, this will be recorded as income and boost the reserves.

During discussion, C. Mills clarified that:

- For NEMA claims under $1 million, the Council doesn't trigger third-party insurance through Aon but can still claim 60% through NEMA.
- NEMA claims have an excess based on 0.002% of the asset/infrastructure capital value of the entire West Coast rating district. The current excess amount for 2024 is approximately $210,000.
- Staff are working with the rating district committee to identify affected landowners and determine appropriate proportions for invoicing.

Councillors noted that this process could potentially offset costs to affected landowners if the NEMA claim is successful.

Moved (McIntyre / Ewen) *that the Committee*:

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Notes the review of the Wanganui Rating District reserves balance will be completed by 30 June 2025, being the end of the 2024/25 financial year.*

Carried

9. **Project Status Reports**

9.1 **Franz Josef Stage 1 Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025**

[Cr Haddock declared an interest in this item and abstained from voting]

S. Hoare provided an update on the Franz Josef Stage 1 project. Key points included:

- Resolution has been reached with the heliport regarding fencing location, allowing this work to proceed.
- Progress has been made on closeout items with the contractor and consultants.

- There are discrepancies in survey data regarding crest heights (between 50-100mm). The team is evaluating whether adjustments are necessary given the 2-meter freeboard already in place. Data differences between the survey and as-builts is being reviewed as the first step.
- A site walkover was conducted to assess water overflow paths from NZTA's unmaintained drainage system, particularly around the Scenic Hotel Group site. Tetratech Coffey are finalising a revised report on stormwater ponding solutions, with options and costings expected by the end of the month. It is hoped that the report will be available for the next Operations Committee meeting, with a representative from Tetratech Coffey to attend to answer questions from the Councillors.
- Final account settlement with the contractor is pending resolution of the survey data issues (barring any requests for additional works).

D. Lew noted that a formal opening ceremony for Franz Joseph Stage One has been scheduled for 6 June 2025.

Moved (McIntyre / Ewen) *that the Committee receives the report.*

Carried

9.2 **Franz Josef Stage 2 Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025**

S. Hoare provided an update on the Franz Josef Stage 2 project. Key points included:

- A productive meeting was held with the working group nominated from the joint committee.
- Agreement has been reached on project scopes, budget establishment, financial tracking and priority orders.
- The team is preparing tender documentation and design documentation.

Councillors asked for an update on the 2024 emergency works by Westland District Council in front of the sewerage ponds. D. Lew advised he has made contact with the Westland District Council (WDC) Chief Executive at the beginning of last week and reminded her that they were going to call a meeting to discuss, otherwise this matter would need to progress to a hearing. The WDC CE undertook to arrange the meeting. The consent file has been updated with this information. It is noted that this matter relates to an extension of the Havill's Wall which was built to an incorrect alignment and could have adverse effects. Impacts are to be established and a retrospective consent issued. If the effects are deemed to be more than minor, it will need to be notified.

Moved (McIntyre / Campbell) *that the Committee*:
1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Provides any feedback or queries via the WCRC Capital Works Programme Manager.*

Carried

9.3 **Hokitika River Walls Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025**

S. Hoare provided an update on the Hokitika River Walls project.

- Defect remediation work is underway.
- Two defects remain outstanding:
    1. Issues with the top of the timber retaining wall, with a solution nearly finalised.
    2. Additional headwall work needed for some stormwater outlets due to alignment issues with existing outlets.
- As-built documentation has been received and is being reviewed with consultants.

For Stage Three:
- Cost estimates are being developed for an alternative single-lane road with earth embankment option.
- A preliminary geotechnical report has raised questions about building on top of the walls.
- Concerns have been noted about the steepness of the existing rock armouring.
- A comprehensive report comparing options will be presented at next month's meeting.

Moved (Haddock / McIntyre) *that the Committee receives the report.*

Carried

9.4 **Greymouth Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025**
[Cr Haddock declared an interest in this item and abstained from voting]

S. Hoare presented the report, noting:

- Completion of stages one and three.

- Defects requiring remediation have been identified following power pole relocation.
- Work is being done for Westland Mineral Sands on concept design including liaising with contractor on costings, geotechnical investigations, consultant costs, resource consent amendment costs and liaising with Grey District Council. Aiming for a decision by next Operations Committee meeting.
- Contractor has been instructed to complete a temporary uplift of the section adjacent to the Westland Mineral Sands site.

Moved (Campbell / McIntyre) *that the Committee receives the report.*

Carried

10. General Business

There was no general business.

11. Public Excluded Business

Moved (Haddock / Coll) *that:*

1. *The public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely **– items 12 to 15** (all inclusive).*

   The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Agenda Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
12.1	*Minutes of Operations Committee public excluded meeting – 18 March 2025*	*The item contains information relating to commercial, privacy and security matters*	*To protect commercial and private information and to prevent disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage (s7(2)(a), s7(2)(b), and s7(2)(j)).*
13.1	*Actions List – public excluded*	*The item contains information relating to commercial, privacy and security matters*	*To protect commercial and private information and to prevent disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage (s7(2)(a), s7(2)(b), and s7(2)(j)).*
14.1	*Franz Josef FPS Upgrade (Stage 2) – Proposed Procurement Approach*	*This item contains information relating to commercial matters*	*To protect commercial information s7(2)(b)).*
14.2	*O'Conor Home Flood Protection*	*The item contains information relating to commercial, privacy and security matters*	*To protect commercial and private information and to prevent disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage (s7(2)(a), s7(2)(b), and s7(2)(j)).*

Agenda Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
15.1	*Franz Josef Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025 - Financial Public Excluded*	*The item contains information relating to commercial matters*	*To protect commercial information s7(2)(b)).*
15.2	*Franz Josef Stage 2 Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025 - Financial Public Excluded*	*The item contains information relating to commercial matters*	*To protect commercial information s7(2)(b)).*
15.3	*Hokitika Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025 - Financial Public Excluded*	*The item contains information relating to commercial matters*	*To protect commercial information s7(2)(b)).*
15.4	*Greymouth Operations Committee Project Status Report March 2025 - Financial Public Excluded*	*The item contains information relating to commercial matters*	*To protect commercial information s7(2)(b)).*

Carried

The meeting moved into a public excluded session at 12.10pm.

Operations Committee Resumes in Public Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1.27pm.

Chair

20 May 2025

Date