

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 APRIL 2017, AT THE ARAHURA MARAE, 1 OLD CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, ARAHURA, HOKITIKA, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), J. Horrox (Science Team Leader), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

Te Rua Mason welcomed everyone to the meeting and performed a Karakia.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

Cr Robb led a moments silence in memory of Duncan Davidson, a former councillor who passed away recently. Cr Davidson served 18 years on Council and represented the Westland constituency.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

PRESENTATION

Mr Mark Davies, West Coast Operations Director for DoC addressed the meeting regarding the Waitua, Prohibition and Alexander mine remediation projects. M. Davies advised that his staff learnt a lot during this project and he is proud of what they achieved. He acknowledged the assistance from Council, the input from Consents staff and the work local contractors did which contributed to the success of the project.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 15 March 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Clementson spoke of the meetings he attended in Christchurch with Cr Robb and the Chief Executive. Cr Clementson stated both meetings were very worthwhile and informative.

Moved (Clementson / Robb)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP 5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

S. Jones spoke to her report and updated council on recent meetings and workshops. She advised that the follow up meeting held last week for the RPS went well and it is hoped that through this work there will be less appeals. S. Jones answered questions from councillors.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *That the report be received.*

Carried

S. Jones spoke to her presentation on the Clean Water Package. She explained the swimmability targets, stock exclusion rules and the new Freshwater Improvement Fund. S. Jones stated that MfE's target is to have 90% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040. New maps and information on the current water quality for swimming were displayed. S. Jones advised that currently the West Coast region is doing well with 99% swimmability in most areas. She stated that Council's draft submission is due on 28 April. Extensive discussion took place. M. Meehan stated that there is the opportunity for the region to get to 100% swimmability in the future. Discussion took place on fencing of waterways and stock exclusion from waterways. Cr McDonnell spoke of the difficulties that may be encountered with regard to the fencing of waterways and what is considered a waterway or wetland. Further discussion took place.

5.1.2 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

N. Costley spoke to this report and advised that the three year interim review on the regional land transport plan has begun.

N. Costley reported that Cr Terry Sloan from Marlborough has been appointed Chair of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group. She advised that the draft work programme has been submitted to progress action on behalf of the South Island. N. Costley answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *That Council receives this report.*

Carried

5.1.3 VARIATION 2 TO THE WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 -21

N. Costley spoke to this report and advised that NZTA has identified that the State Highway 6 and 7 route from Hokitika to Waipara Junction is the most cost effective route for upgrading. She highlighted other routes that have been identified to have strengthening work completed. N. Costley advised that total costs for improvements to has been increased to \$4,000,000 from \$3,500,000. Cr Archer questioned whether State Highway 1 would be reopened on the same route and to the same standard. N. Costley responded that it will be the same route but in some places to a higher standard as mitigation is required in some areas.

Moved (Robb / Archer)

1. *That Council approves the variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 for the inclusion of the West Coast HMPV improvements - \$4,000,000 and*
2. *That Council submits the variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.*

Carried

5.1.4 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan invited J. Horrox to speak to this report. J. Horrox advised that undesirable results at Marrs Beach have been recorded during the reporting period. He noted that heavy rainfall had occurred during the reporting period. Cr Challenger asked if soak pits and septic tanks close to this area could be a source of the higher E coli readings. J. Horrox advised that there are quite a few possible reasons including

birdlife, groundwater, high rainfall and tidal effects. Discussion took place. S. Jones suggested that once the second round of funding for the Clear Water package is released then a funding application could be made to MfE to investigate the Marrs Beach catchment. It was agreed that this would be very worthwhile.

Moved (Challenger / Robb) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 15 non-notified consents were processed during the reporting period. He reported that almost 50% of whitebait stand resource consent applications have been granted with 62% still outstanding. G. McCormack advised that 14 August is the deadline. G. McCormack reported that three variations to resource consents were granted during the reporting period.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That the April 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 80 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period. He reported that one formal warning for gravel extraction was issued, and four abatement notices were issued. Cr Ewen asked how often gravel returns have to be submitted. G. McCormack responded that usually every 12 months, but this depends on how much gravel is taken so often a case by case approach is taken. Discussion occurred with Cr Ewen raising questions around consistency.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer)

- 1. That the report be received.*
- 2. That the bond for RC04161 Hardrock Mining and Development Ltd is released.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr McDonnell asked if the recent changes to the RMA are likely to impact on the way Council operates. S. Jones advised that the Resource Management Bill had its second and third readings in the House last week and is now waiting for royal assent. She stated that staff are currently looking at the implications and will report back to the next Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.16 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date