

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Ewen) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8 October 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Challenger stated that he has nothing to report.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT & HYDROLOGY REPORT**

H. Mills spoke to his report and advised that replacement elected representatives for the Freshwater Management Groups are required following the recent local body elections. Representatives are also required for the two Westland FMU's which will start in March 2020. He provided background information on what is required from Councillors for these roles.

H. Mills explained RMA Amendment Bill, Action for Healthy Waterways Package, and the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Act to Council. He stated that this Act has now passed into law, with the key changes for the West Coast being the requirement for permits for Whitebaiting which will take effect in October 2021, and the Director-General will have the power to close a waterway for Whitebaiting, for up to five years.

H. Mills explained the background to documents that are currently open for submissions including the Crown Minerals Act, which has been extended to 27 January 2020. H. Mills advised meetings have already been held with industry. H. Mills advised that the one of the key things within the discussion document is the purpose of the Act which is to promote mineral exploration and extraction.

H. Mills advised that although there were no flood alarms triggered during the reporting period, there have been several since as a result of the recent extreme weather event. He stated that the alarm on the Waiho River is not functioning, and staff are assuming that it was struck by lightning.

M. Meehan advised that interim discussions have been held with industry, iwi, and district councils regarding the proposed changes to the Crown Minerals Act. M. Meehan stated that the changes being sought will duplicate what is already being done around the RMA at Local Government level. He stated that a major change to the Act is the removal of the word "promote", and the purpose of the Act which is a significant change. M. Meehan advised that although the submission period has been extended it still does not allow a lot of time to work though such a major change to this legislation. He stated that the major changes are the introduction of a lot of duplication into the system which is already covered by the RMA.

Cr Coll McLaughlin suggested that key messages of future submissions are made available two weeks prior to the submission date in order for people who are wanting to make a submission have clear understanding of Council's direction.

Cr Ewen stated that with regard to submissions and papers that are coming to Council, he would like to see some alignment with the percentage of DoC estate and DoC control. He stated that DoC runs with 84%, but the consensus he sees is 87%. Cr Ewen stated he would like to see 87% emphasised in Council documents. F. Tumahai, and Cr Birchfield agreed. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that more land is likely to become DoC estate with the Great Walk to be included. Cr Birchfield stated that private land that has been taken into Wetland is basically administered by DoC. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that there is a lot of grey area land that could be impacted as with SNA's as these may not be conservation land. H. Mills advised that LINZ land is also impacted. It was agreed that H. Mills and F. Tumahai would work with DoC to ensure that the percentage is accurate.

**Moved** (Coll McLaughlin / Ewen)

1. *That the report is received.*

2. *That the Council appoints representatives for the Grey (Cr Cummings), Kawatiri (Cr Hill), Hokitika (Cr Magner), and South Westland (Cr Challenger), Freshwater Management Unit Groups.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 CONTACT RECREATION WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE**

H. Mills spoke to this report and provided background, he spoke of trends in various catchments over the years and advised that faecal source tracking has been done in the past in some catchments and could be done again in the future if Council would like further investigations. H. Mills answered questions from Councillors relating contamination sources and causes, dye source tracking and faecal source tracking which can be from either human, avian and ruminants. Discussion took place on the regularity of sampling, as weekly sampling is currently being undertaken during the swimming season. Locations of sampling was discussed and it was agreed that H. Mills would follow up on the possibility of undertaking monitoring at Punakaiki.

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

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that nine site visits were carried out, 29 non-notified resources consents were granted, and 12 changes to consent conditions were granted during the reporting period. She reported that one limited notified resource consent was granted during the reporting period.

H. McKay answered questions from Councillors. She advised Councillors that Council has delegated authority from Westland District Council to process their mining consents.

Cr Birchfield asked what is the purpose of RC05200-V1, DoC Franz Josef Glacier Field Base Waiho River, to change the quantity of rock that can be extracted from the Waiho River. H. McKay advised that this is a

variation to an existing consent, and is quite an old consent. Cr Birchfield noted that Council has also been recovering rock from the Waiho River.

**Moved** (Cummings / Birchfield)

*That the October – December 2019 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

## **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that 151 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. She reported that there were 40 complaints or incidents received with 14 non-compliances occurring during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that a further 26 complaints or incidents are still under investigation.

H. McKay reported that three formal warnings were issued during the reporting period, 13 infringement notices, and six abatement notices were issued.

H. McKay reported that 12 mining work programmes were received during the reporting period, with all 12 being approved. H. McKay advised that four bonds are recommended for release.

F. Tumahai asked if a trend has been noticed with complaints and if they are trending up over time. H. McKay stated that if figures are examined they appear to be trending up over the past couple of years, and there has been an increase in complaint based activity. She stated that recording systems have been greatly increased in the last two years with better information capture coming through. Cr Cummings asked if complaints are weather related or seasonal. H. McKay advised that this report is for two months, she has not noticed any seasonal trends other than during the whitebait season as this sometimes promotes a bit more river related complaint activity especially in the south of the region.

F. Tumahai stated that there is a lot of work coming, and there is a lot going on already. H. McKay agreed, and stated that there is a lot more media interest in complaints as people will often complain to media first, and then the complaint will come to Council. She advised that general information requests from interest groups, government departments are definitely on the increase.

H. McKay answered questions from Councillors relating to complaints and the procedures around these.

**Moved** (Cummings / Birchfield)

*1. That the November – December 2019 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

*2. That the bonds for RC2015-0043 of \$6,000 held by Granville Mining Ltd, RC02239 of \$160,000 held by Buller Coal Limited, RC97014 held by Cascade Coal Limited of \$40,000 and the \$30,000 held by NZG Limited are released.*

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.14 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date