

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JULY 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **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), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Clementson / Archer) *That the apology from Cr Robb be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. MINUTES**

Cr Clementson asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous **Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 June 2019, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Cr Clementson welcomed Frida Inta to the meeting via telephone. Ms Inta's letter was taken as read. She spoke of her concerns regarding the Mokihinui Estuary. Ms Inta stated that she has seen the degradation of the estuary over the years and is concerned that this is unnecessary and could have been avoided. Ms Inta spoke of the clearing of Swannies culvert and stated that the sand taken from this area cannot be dumped in this area as she feels this area is swamp marsh and contains rare plants. Ms Inta stated that the culvert structure is visually awful and she does not understand how Council can give retrospective consent to such an ugly structure. She also stated that she does not understand how this can be a permitted activity. Cr Archer asked Ms Inta various questions relating to where the sand could be dumped and what industries it could be used for. She responded that there are many uses for sand. Ms Inta stated that fairy terns and dotterel also need to be protected as these faunas are in the estuary. Further questions took place on who owns the area and who should be responsible for work in this area. Cr Clementson advised Ms Inta that as her letter contained staff members names, a response will be discussed in the confidential section of today's meeting and will be provided to her in due course. He passed on Council's thanks to Ms Inta.

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

Cr Clementson reported that he attended final meeting for the Marrs Beach Working Group. He attended the unveiling for the pou whenua on the Mokihinui Estuary, this was also attended by the Minister of Conservation.

**Moved** (Clementson / Archer) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

## **5. REPORTS**

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

#### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT**

H. Mills spoke to his report and advised that the report on the decisions for Plan Change 1 will be presented to next month's Council meeting as this is now being finalised.

H. Mills reported that at the recent Grey Mawhera FMU meeting discussion took place on the NPSFM.

H. Mills outlined the paper relating to the Kawatiri FMU which outlines the members of the community who will be recommended to join this group.

H. Mills reported that there is considerable work going on with changes to the Freshwater NPS, along with the NES for Freshwater Management. He stated that draft version of the NES is expected to be released in the next few months.

M. Meehan commented that Council is not set up to implement the NES for Freshwater Management as this would require additional resources as it is looking at stock exclusion, planting across catchments, farm planning, and there are at least 400 farm plans that would need to be done. M. Meehan advised that Canterbury has mandatory farm plans, but noted that the West Coast does not have the same issues with water quality that Canterbury has. Meehan stated this will be a major issue and Council may well find itself the odd one out as potentially not have some of the issues that the NES seeks to address. H. Mills confirmed that a draft policy is expected in a few months' time. Cr Ewen expressed concern if the NES becomes law. Cr Birchfield stated this is basically government regulation of the farming industry and will cost farmers and ratepayers a lot of money to administer. Cr Archer also expressed his concern that central government is loading local government with huge additional high cost requirements without consideration to the costs to communities. He stated that communities are already saying that they cannot afford this. M. Meehan stated he would like to think that a thorough regulatory impact statement will come through with the NES. He stated at the moment the Freshwater NPS is being implemented, Council is engaging with the community through the work the resource science team is doing, and central government is making decisions on behalf of the community that potentially will be overshot by more legislation coming in. M. Meehan stated that the Freshwater NES was set up for the community to make decisions about what they want from the environment. M. Meehan advised that a similar situation happened with the Reefton Air shed. H. Mills advised that he is part of the Resource Manager's Groups, who sit with MfE in meetings and stated that they do take the concerns on board. H. Mills advised that Council will get to submit on this NES. Extensive discussion ensued, M. Meehan advised that Council can make a strong submission on what comes through but he flagged that radical changes can be expected and it is likely that Council will be lumped with more costs, potentially for not a lot of benefit. Cr McDonnell commented that the NES may even make some farming impractical. H. McKay stated that there will impacts from this for the West Coast.

Discussion took place on the recommendations with Cr Archer stating that he knows at least half of the appointees to the Kawatiri FMU.

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell)

- 1. That the report is received.*
- 2. That Council approves a further extension of six months to release decisions on submissions to the Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Land and Water Plan, by 21 February 2020.*
- 3. That Council approved the Implementation Team's recommended applicants for membership of the Kawatiri Freshwater Management Unit Group.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.2 MARRS AND SHINGLE BEACH WORKING GROUP REPORT: STAGE 1**

H. Mills spoke to this report and provided background information on the working group since its inception. He spoke of the key findings and advised that Bradshaws Creek was identified as having high levels of E. coli., with ruminants the most likely source. H. Mills advised that water quality targets have

now been set with farmers in the catchment working voluntarily with Council to meet the target by 2023. He stated if the targets are not met by 2023, farmers within the catchment are happy for Council to come in with a regulatory approach which would be rules and plans. Cr Clementson commented that it is likely that Bradshaws Creek will come under increased scrutiny with the NES for Freshwater therefore it is good that they are already working on raising the level for water quality to an acceptable standard now. Cr McDonnell asked if Shingle Beach has a catchment of its own. H. Mills advised that as this is over the other side of the Buller River, a connection was not made as it was looking as though results were getting better at Shingle Beach. H. Mills advised that the recommendations only apply to Marris Beach. H. Mills explained how dye tracing was used. Cr Archer stated this is a very comprehensive and robust report. H. Mills answered further questions from Councillors. Cr Archer suggested a 7<sup>th</sup> recommendation, commending the working group and staff to thank them for their contribution to this project.

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen)

1. *Work with farmers in the Bradshaws Creek catchment to reduce sources of faecal contamination to waterbodies.*
2. *Aim to improve E. coli concentrations in Bradshaws Creek to above the NPSFM 'D' category by 2023. If this is not achieved then regulatory measures may be considered in close consultation with farmers and the community.*
3. *Pursue avenues for working with farmers to implement voluntary measures that will lead to less faecal contamination of Bradshaws Creek.*
4. *If Bradshaws Creek has improved significantly, but water quality targets at Marris Beach have not been achieved by 2023, then further investigation should be undertaken to determine the source of contamination at Marris Beach.*
5. *WCRC staff to work with Buller District Council to make the content of public health signage at Marris Beach more relevant for the public.*
6. *The Group remains formed in its existing structure and continues in future to meet as required.*
7. *That Council commends the Marris Beach and Shingle Beach Working Group, and Council staff, for their enthusiasm and contribution to this project.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY**

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that there have been no exceedances of the NES for air quality in Reefton so far this season. He advised that the new machine has been installed and is now recording both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. H. Mills advised that data is being collected via USB as there is not yet a telemetered link back to Council.

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

*Carried*

### **52.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that six site visits were carried out, nine non-notified resource consents were granted, and two changes to consent conditions were granted during the reporting period. H. McKay reported that two changes to and reviews of consent conditions were granted, and two limited notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. H. McKay answered questions from Cr Challenger in relation to Westland District Council's resource consent for the Franz Josef Wastewater Treatment Plan, she confirmed that this is for the new ponds.

**Moved** (McDonnell / Challenger) *That the July 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 62 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. H. McKay reported that there were 23 complaints or incidents were received with 11 resulting in site visits. H. McKay reported that there were 11 non-compliances during the reporting period.

H. McKay reported that two abatement notices, 22 formal warnings and two infringement notices were issued during the reporting period. H. McKay advised that 21 formal warnings were in relation to gravel returns which have not been submitted for some time.

H. McKay reported that 13 work programmes were received with ten being approved. One bond is recommended for release.

Cr Birchfield stated that gravel extraction is creating unnecessary bureaucracy and should be made a permitted activity with rules. He stated this would make things cheaper and simpler for people to operate. M. Meehan advised that a holistic consent was investigated about ten years ago and looking how all could be consented. He stated that different approaches are taken all around the country for gravel extraction. M. Meehan offered to look at other options. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that there would not be a lot of benefit in seeking a plan change, and this would also be very costly. Cr Birchfield stated that he would like to know what this is costing Council to administer. It was agreed that costs would be provided to Councillors. M. Meehan advised gravel returns give good information on how much gravel has been taken and how much is available for other users. It was agreed no further work would be done on this matter but costs would be provided to Councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen)

*1. That the July 2019 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

*2. That the bond for RC-07078 Leisure Land Limited of \$12,000 is released.*

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.26 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date