

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 APRIL 2021, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.11 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

V. Smith (Chief Executive), H. Mabin (Acting Corporate Services Manager), H. Mills (Planning, Science & Innovation Manager), C. Helem (Acting Consents & Compliance Manager), J. Armstrong (TTPP Project Manager) via Zoom, R. Beal (Operations Director), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

WELCOME

Cr Challenger opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Birchfield / Douglas) *That the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman advised that he has been working as a Consultant for people who have applied for resource consents during the past month.
There were no further declarations of interest.

PUBLIC FORUM, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There was no public forum.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

2. MINUTES

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

Moved (Magner / Cummings) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 March 2021, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no report.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT & HYDROLOGY REPORT

H. Mills spoke to his report. He advised that Lake Kini wetland boundaries have been resolved based on an expert visiting this area. H. Mills advised that both parties have agreed to the boundary adjustments. He stated that a decision from the Environment Court is awaited and until the Environment Court makes a determination the matter is not resolved.

H. Mills provided updates on the activities of the Freshwater Management Groups. He stated that all recommendations from the FMU groups should be finalised within the next couple of months.

H. Mills reported that Option 4 is the preferred option for the proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

He advised that a few changes have been made to the anticipated documents to be notified for submissions, these are minor changes to dates and timelines and relate mainly to the RMA reform and climate change matters.

H. Mills advised that staff are unsure of what policies central government are going to use to enact the phasing out of coal boilers, but it could be the proposed NPS for Greenhouse Gas emissions and the NES for air quality. He stated that a careful eye is being kept on this.

H. Mills offered to answer question. Cr Challenger asked H. Mills if the negotiations process for Lake Kini was straight forward. H. Mills advised that caucusing was held with the Environment Court Judge and she directed the process to go through, two meetings were held with the appellant and interested parties, with one being DoC, who then decided to withdraw their interest. Council and the appellant then reported back with joint memo to the Environment Court.

Cr Ewen stated that given the Government's attention on bores, this could have implications on Council.

J. Douglas stated that the runanga are happy with the Environment Court process and stated that everyone can learn something from this process, as it does not have to be so protracted and complicated

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council proceeds to Option 4 for the Coastal Plan review process, to realign timeframes for processing the pRCP.*
3. *That Council agrees with the updated staff advice in Appendix 1 about which national documents to submit on.*

Carried

5.1.2 TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN UPDATE

J. Armstrong spoke to her report. She stated that it is a busy time with planners working overtime in order to keep up.

J. Armstrong reported options are being looked at for the delivery of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP). She outlined the options and advised that the best option is the accelerated delivery options as it is hoped this will become notified under the new regime.

J. Armstrong offered to answer questions. Cr Cummings agreed with accelerated plan option. Cr Magner asked if the resources to fast track are available. J. Armstrong responded that a timeline is in place for delivery as well as the consultation process which is very important. She stated that the budget will need to be increased for one year, and then dropped back, research is also important and needs to be achieved as there is no point putting forward a plan if research not done.

Discussion took place on the name of the plan, Cr Ewen stated it is important to stick to one name going forward as it is going to get confusing. J. Armstrong advised that all information that has been

put out has been branded under the Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast.

Cr Birchfield spoke of the media article from the Greymouth Star criticising the rental accommodation and renting of holiday homes on the West Coast. J. Armstrong advised that a questionnaire is on the TTPP website regarding this matter and is already receiving feedback on both sides of the argument. J. Armstrong advised that she will be reporting back to the TTPP committee on this matter.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and highlighted various consenting matters. He drew attention to site visit undertaken on 26 March relating to the applicant wanting to bring contaminated waste from Ravensdown, Hornby, and to dispose of on his property at Reefton. C. Helem advised this site is already consented for similar activities but as the contaminants are different a new consent is required. C. Helem advised that NZ whitebait Ltd has had their resource consent granted to discharge water containing contaminants to the Buller River from a fish farm. C. Helem explained the treatment process and advised that the effects to the environment are considered to be minor.

Cr Ewen stated that he has received emails from concerned people regarding the dumping of material from Ravensdown at Reefton, he requested some guidelines are sent to him on the process that this consent application has gone through, which he can pass on should he receive further queries. C. Helem agreed to provide this. Cr Hill agreed with Cr Ewen and stated he has also had queries about this matter. He feels this matter is going to be controversial. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that she has received queries and stated she sent constituents the flow chart that shows how Council can make decisions about notification levels.

Moved (Cummings / Magner) *That the March 2021 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and outlined compliance activity during the reporting period. He advised that staff are busy with dairy shed inspections.

C. Helem reported that the complaint regarding the dumping of demolition material from the old Grey Base Hospital being investigated with numerous site visits having been made. He stated that the site is currently non-compliant but investigation work is continuing.

He expanded on various complaints and incidents and answered questions from Councillors.

C. Helem confirmed that work on the old hospital site is not being held up. C. Helem advised that staff are working with the contractor, as the issues are related to reinforcing steel being removed from the concrete which is breaking up when being dumped and exposing the steel. C. Helem advised that one of the consent conditions is that exposed metal is to be removed before dumping.

J. Douglas stated that she has also received the same complainant regarding the flood protection wall on the Haast River. She advised that the runanga don't have any issues with this matter.

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings)

1. *That the March 2021 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

2. *That the \$30,000 bond for RC12035 MS Moore Contracting Limited is released.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Birchfield asked H. Mills if the new legislation regarding SNA's has been brought in yet. H. Mills advised that the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity is expected to be released in the coming months. He

stated that this is not yet in force, Council has submitted on this, and are waiting with interest. H. Mills advised there are still areas under the RMA where SNA's have to be applied to. V. Smith asked if the requirement to identify SNA's is spelt out in the RPS. H. Mills responded that it is. Cr Birchfield asked where does this leave the landowners at the moment. H. Mills advised that landowners will need to speak with J. Armstrong and her team to ascertain how this will be applied. He advised that through the RPS, the criteria has been written, and how a SNA will be assessed with the more intricate rules for the Combined District Plan relating to SNA's are still being written. H. Mills stated some district plans, including the Grey District Plan, have operative rules within the District Plan. J. Armstrong advised that other district plans have vegetation clearance rules which require a resource consent before any native bush can be removed.

The meeting closed at 11. 43a.m.

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Chairman

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Date