

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE COAL CREEK RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL, 2002 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

B. Jones, O. Norton, F. Riordan, H. Bradley, P. Kerridge (West Coast Rugby League),
K. Braun (late)

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Shannahan, P. Ewen (Councilors)
R. Lowe, W Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

J. Beynon, J. Clayton

BUSINESS

D. Shannahan opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous AGM held on 29 March 2001, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting”.*

B. Jones / H. Bryant - carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen supplied detailed service fee details, these covering discussion and meetings called by ratepayers, correspondence on behalf of the rating district, photocopying copies of the asset management plan for the Chairman and general administration matters.

B. Jones again questioned the LAPP Fund.

W Moen explained that Jardine Risk, the Council’s Insurance Brokers, had made a detailed study of possible alternative insurance options and had consequently advised Council that no other comparable cost – effective cover was available.

P. Ewen added that the costs of insurance are likely to rise as a consequence of the 11 September 2001 U.S.A. bombings.

Other speakers included R. Lowe, O. Norton and W. Moen.

FINANCIAL MINUTES

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 2001 calendar year ending 31 December 2001.

Moved: *“That the Financial Report for the 2001 financial period be adopted.”*

O. Norton / B. Jones – carried

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Moved: *“That the new committee comprise of the following:*

O. Norton – H. Bradley / P. Kerridge

J. Beynon – B. Jones / F. Riordan

F. Riordan – B. Jones / H. Bradley

B. Jones – K. Braun / O. Norton

Moved: ***“ That B. Jones be appointed as spokesperson for the 2002/ 2003 year.”***

O. Norton / P. Kerridge - carried

RATES:

Full discussion took place on a rates strike for the 2002 / 2003 financial year.

O. Norton advocated the filling in of depressions with soil.

W. Moen pointed out the vulnerability of a soil stopbank as opposed to a rock – faced bank.

P. Ewen said that cattle were damaging the stopbank and felt that all cattle could be denied access to the bank to preserve its integrity.

P. Ewen also raised the issue of objections from the Kaiata side of the river if an application for the raising of the stopbank proceeded.

B. Jones explained that he was in favour of “keeping ahead” of the erosion by extending rock protection in advance.

K. Braun agreed in a “measured response” at the time.

H. Bradley asked if the rating district could be extended to take in more properties?

R. Lowe explained that could only happen if added benefit to those properties could be proven. This would be difficult, as the existing boundaries were considered reasonable.

The vulnerability of the scheme and the potential costs of upstream works were discussed.

W. Moen and R. Lowe spoke on the rating levels and advised the committee of the dangers of lowering the rates.

Moved: ***“That the 2002 / 2003 rate be set at \$20,000 + G.S.T.”***

P. Kerridge / B. Jones – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

R. Lowe spoke on the future of Council’s quarry operations.

Some Councilors were concerned that the quarrying operations should be on a “user pays” basis and priced to reflect, at worst, a break – even financial venture.

He also pointed out that the demand for rock over the last 2 years had been abnormally low due to lack of flood events and this in turn had reduced revenue from rock sales and hence a deficit situation. It was envisaged that this scenario would change back to normal in subsequent years.

D. Shannahan explained that other rock costs around New Zealand ranged up to \$30 per tonne when produced on a commercial, profit-making basis.

It was Council’s general intention not to let this type of profit - driven rock supply occur to the detriment of the general ratepayer.

D. Shannahan also explained, that in his view, Council overall involvement in quarrying operations is essential.

O. Norton felt that the present system was adequate and that the ratepayers do not want an over – regulated system.

Moved: ***“That there be no increase in rock prices and that the quarry operations are viewed as a community service to all ratepayers.”***

O. Norton / K. Braun

Discussion took place on the new Greymouth water supply and its potential damage from failure of stopbanks along the Coal Creek frontage.

**Moved: *"That a letter be sent The Grey District Council seeking payment of
The agreed 8.64% contribution backdated to 7 December 1999."***
K. Braun / O. Norton

It was also asked that an on – site meeting be arranged at 9.30 am on Friday 5 April 2002 to inspect the upstream section of rock with a view to carry out strengthening works in the near future.

R. Lowe agreed to co-ordinate this.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.10p.m.

W. Moen
Senior Engineering Officer.