

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COAL CREEK RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES ON 25 NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 7.04 PM.

PRESENT

B. Jones, F & M. Riordan, S. McGeady, W. Brennan, A. Inman, M. McGeady, O. Norton

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. Ewen (Councillors).
M. Meehan, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

P. Kerridge, A. Beck

F. Riordan / W. Brennan - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Robb opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 9 September 2013, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting, with amendment noted below removed."*

A. Inman / S. McGeady - Carried

A. Inman drew attention to the last line in the matters arising section of the minutes. It was agreed that this line would be removed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

Action points were updated. M. Meehan advised that the structure of the engineering team has been changed. W. Moen now manages from the Taramakau River and south, P. Birchfield manages the rating districts north of Taramakau which includes this rating district. M. Meehan advised that neither P. Birchfield nor W. Moen were able to attend tonight's meeting.

M. Meehan advised that he was to investigate the rates rebate paid to the West Coast Rugby League Club. He stated that sports clubs receive a 50% discount on their rates. B. Jones queried why this impacts on the Coal Creek rating district as the league ground is not an asset to the Coal Creek rating district. M. Meehan stated that there are other sports grounds that this would apply to as well. It was agreed that this would be followed up with Council's Corporate Services Manager. \$374.91 is the annual rate for the league ground.

W. Moen was to report back to S. McGeady regarding the reinstatement of fence, the price for the posts and wire and 500 metres of gravel. This action point links in the with the next action point regarding the rehabilitation of the farm access road. M. Meehan spoke to W. Moen about this and it is related to a contract with Westland Contractors Ltd. It was noted that the price for the gravel was an extra over and above the tendered contract price. The fence work was included in the contract price. B. Jones stated that some of the work that was to have been included in the contract wasn't done. S. McGeady stated that his biggest issue was the 500 metres of gravel as he felt there was no need for this gravel and the amount spent on this gravel amounted to a year's worth of rates. S. McGeady stated that the

running course gravel was unnecessary. It was agreed that M. Meehan would re-look at the tender documents, get a report on this tender and send out a report to the committee.

M. Meehan reported that he met with NZTA's South Island Operations Manager, to discuss the issue of the erosion on the stopbanks upstream of S. McGeady's property. M. Meehan stated that NZTA basically told him to advise them when the erosion starts taking the road out and they will sort the road out as they have no interest in doing any work unless there is an emergency that affects the road. M. Meehan advised that this is a common problem in other rating districts as NZTA has limited money for preventative work. M. Meehan advised that he will continue to raise this with NZTA but at the moment it is not high on their priority list.

M. Meehan passed around a picture of the erosion line to the meeting. He advised there has been about a metre to 1.5 metre of erosion in some places since November 2013. It was noted that there has not been a big flood in the river since this time. S. McGeady stated that there has been a couple of metres taken in the last couple of weeks.

Spraying of willows in Coal Creek: M. Meehan has spoken to DoC to about this matter and advised that DoC is spraying willows in the Lake Brunner area at the moment. At the moment they are spraying the Crooked River catchment and are slowly moving down. He hopes they may reach Coal Creek some time but it is not on their agenda in the next year or so. M. Meehan advised that there are varying opinions as to whether or not willows are a problem or if they are working in their favour. M. Meehan asked the meeting if there were concerns about the willows. It was noted that the costs were a big factor and most people present were not keen to spend money on the removal of the willows. M. Meehan offered to get quotes for the spraying of the willows. Further discussion ensued. It was agreed that quotes would not be sought.

WORKS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that \$825 was spent on spraying during the reporting period. P. Birchfield carried out an inspection in August 2014 and no maintenance works were identified but she advised that \$10,000 be allowed for unforeseen maintenance. S. McGeady advised that there are works required now in the Fulton Hogan area. He doubts that the \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance would cover this. It was agreed that P. Birchfield and S. McGeady would inspect this area as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Meehan presented the financial statements for the period ending 30 June 2014. He advised that the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2015 / 16 financial year is likely to be \$111,500. M. Meehan advised that the prudent reserve for the rating district account is between \$150,000 and \$300,000 in the case of an emergency.

RATES 2015/ 2016

M. Meehan recommends a maintenance rate strike of \$10,000 for the coming financial year. It was agreed that the rate strike would be \$10,000 for the 2015 / 2016 financial year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee and the current Spokesperson. It was agreed that the committee would remain the same but with the addition of A. Inman.

Moved: ***"That the present committee remains the same for the 2014 / 2015 financial year:***

O. Norton

F. Riordan

A. Beck

B. Jones

A. Inman

be the committee for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."

F. Riordan / W. Brennan– Carried

Moved: ***"That S. McGeady be re - elected as the spokesperson for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."***

O. Norton / B. Jones – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Robb asked the meeting whether or not they wish to continue having an annual meeting. He stated that some rating districts are electing not to have a meeting. M. Meehan advised that some rating districts have decided to meet every third year. He advised that if there isn't an annual meeting then there is a lot of onus on the committee and spokesperson to keep in touch with council and each other. Cr Robb stated that this does not have to be decided on now, but a decision can be made closer to the time of the annual meeting.

Discussion took place on the circulation of the minutes following the annual meeting. It was agreed that anyone who would like a copy of the minutes can ring council and request them to be sent out or get them off the Council website.

Proposed Flood Protection Management Bylaw 2014: M. Meehan circulated a brochure outlining the purpose of the bylaw and advised that Canterbury and Otago have introduced this bylaw as there have been issues with planting on stopbanks and heavy grazing on stopbanks and access to stopbanks for maintenance. M. Meehan advised that council has had issues in the northern Buller region with people planting trees on stopbanks. Karamea rating district has had to do a massive job removing large pine trees which have damaged the stopbank. M. Meehan advised that submissions close on the 19th of January and anyone can make a submission. M. Meehan advised that the further information is available on the Council website. B. Jones asked if running of stock is much of a problem. M. Meehan advised that stock only becomes problematic when they are likely to cause significant damage to the bank. M. Meehan and Cr Robb answered various questions from speakers. M. Meehan stated that he would send copies of the proposed bylaw to B. Jones and W. Brennan.

M. Meehan advised that the Asset Management Plan for Coal Creek has now been updated with updated maps and stopbanks included. He encouraged the meeting to get back in touch with him should they have any concerns about the updated version of this.

O. Norton stated that he has heard that DoC is going to plant the area around the old hockey park. He asked who DoC would be getting resource consent from and he feels this is going to block up the river. M. Meehan advised that resource consent is not required to plant flaxes. M. Meehan advised that DoC is planting low level vegetation around the whitebait spawning areas around the Cobden Island area. M. Meehan advised that this is a project that Doc and the district council are working on. He suggested that O. Norton speaks to them if he has concerns about this work. M. Meehan stated that he does not think that this work is going to be detrimental to flood flows in the Grey River.

O. Norton asked who the rating district would approach to get the Coal Creek rating district incorporated into the Greymouth Rating District. O. Norton stated that there are only a dozen or so ratepayers in the Coal Creek Rating District contributing to their rating district and he thinks it would be a good idea to get 10,000 or 12,000 ratepayers from the Greymouth Rating District to contribute to the Coal Creek rating district and contribute to the whole area. Cr Robb stated that this may result in an increase in rates for the Coal Creek ratepayers. M. Meehan advised O. Norton that the mechanism to use to progress this would be via Council's Annual Plan process. M. Meehan advised O. Norton that the Coal Creek rating district would instantly be lumped with the 30 year loan that the Greymouth Rating District has in place for the Greymouth Floodwall which is just under \$3M. O. Norton requested that M. Meehan arranges for a report to be done on this and report back to the rating district. Cr Robb advised that a consultant would need to be engaged to do this report as it would be the disbanding of one rating district and expanding the Greymouth rating district. Cr Robb stated this would be a major undertaking, the rating district would need to pay to have the report done, and it would need to go to public consultation. Cr Robb stated that if it looked like this was going to go against the Coal Creek rating district and rates were going to go up then the Greymouth ratepayers might push to get this underway and the Greymouth ratepayers would have more say than the Coal Creek ratepayers would have. Cr

Ewen advised O. Norton that in reality in view of the Greymouth rating district's loan, there might well be a marriage of an unwilling party. M. Riordan stated that if the Grey River undercuts the stopbank it is going to be too much for the Coal Creek rating district to pay for. S. McGeady reminded M. Riordan that he previously stated that the rating district wouldn't be prepared to put money upstream on S. McGeady's land and now M. Riordan is asking the Greymouth rating district to do the same thing.

S. McGeady stated that he feels that B. Jones pays the majority of the rates into the rating district and he should have more say than those who pay much less. S. McGeady invited Crs Robb, Ewen and Birchfield to view that erosion area as soon as possible as he is concerned that people don't realise how serious the problem is. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible. Extensive discussion took place on the role of Council when it comes to protecting the rating district assets. S. McGeady stated that his point is that he and B. Jones wanted to put groynes in the eroded area years ago but they were out voted. Further discussion took place on the history of this area. Cr Robb advised that if there is a serious situation then Council would act upon this but there would still need to be reasonable buy in from the rating district to be sure that this is what the rating district wants. Cr Ewen and Cr Birchfield agreed with Cr Robb. It was agreed that a site visit would be arranged urgently. M. Meehan advised that this matter has been investigated in the past and a report from Graham Smart was commissioned. He advised that he will retrieve this report and arrange for W. Moen to be on site as well.

M. Meehan advised that a letter of response to P. Kerridge correspondence will be sent to all members of the rating district.

Action Points:

- T. Jellyman to send minutes to the committee.
- M. Meehan to send copies of the Proposed Flood Protection Bylaw to B. Jones and W. Brennan.
- Crs Robb, Ewen and Birchfield to view the erosion area with S. McGeady, M. Meehan and P. Birchfield as soon as possible.
- M. Meehan to follow up with Corporate Services Manager regarding the rates rebate for West Coast Rugby League Club.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.