

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 25 OCTOBER 2011, COMMENCING AT 11.00 AM

PRESENT

R. Steadman, J. Hayton, B. Jones, L. Kees, K. Kees, F. Bjerring, R. Anderson, G. Volckman

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
T. Archer (Councillor)
C. Ingle, (CEO), W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Cr R. Scarlett, K. Gavigan, C. Hellyar

B. Jones / R. Anderson - Carried

BUSINESS

T. Archer opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

He introduced himself and the Council staff. T. Archer advised the meeting that this is a public meeting; anyone can attend but not necessarily speak or comment. T. Archer asked for confirmation that all present are actual ratepayers to the Kongahu Rating District. R. Steadman and J. Hayton identified that they were from outside the Kongahu rating district. They own a property at Captains Creek.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 17 September 2010, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

L. Kees / K. Kees - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

B. Jones asked if the levels have been done for the possible lifting of the road at Little Wanganui. W. Moen responded that the levels have been done, a design and a rough costing have also been done but the project has been put on hold. B. Jones stated that he feels that the proposed height of one metre is a bit excessive, as a metre would block everything off and he is not familiar with this height being quoted before. It was noted that not everyone present is in favour of the raising of the road. W. Moen advised this project would be subject to a resource consent. C. Ingle advised that his recollection is that there was an alternative proposal from Mr Kees about redoing some humping and hollowing and this matter took over from the raising of the road issue. L. Kees advised that the lifting of the hump in question is irrelevant. W. Moen stated that if the humping and hollowing were rearranged then that would alleviate the issue of raising the road. L. Kees disagreed, R. Anderson asked who put the project on hold. C. Ingle stated that because it wasn't discussed at last year's meeting he assumed that it was no longer urgent. C. Ingle advised that the levels information could be brought back to the committee to progress this matter. It was agreed that this information would be provided to the committee prior to the next annual meeting.

ACTION POINTS:

C. Ingle reported that the Little Wanganui Bridge was inspected. He advised that the NIWA consultant that C. Ingle could have got at no cost to the rating district was too busy. C. Ingle offered to engage the services of a consultant to review the issue, if the rating district is willing to pay for this. W. Moen suggested that the consultant could also look at the affects of lifting the road off as well. C. Ingle advised that the consultant might well suggest that a LIDAR survey is done and this would cost approximately \$50,000. C. Ingle explained that a LIDAR survey is a flyover, which is like a radar, taken from the sky using lasers and tells you the terrain and maps out the ground levels throughout the whole floodplain. He explained that this is then used to create a digital elevation model and they map where the water is going to go, as they know down to the nearest centimetre where the ground levels are. He advised this has been done in Karamea but it is quite expensive. L. Kees asked what areas of the catchment are considered to be the flood plane. C. Ingle responded that it would be both sides of the Little Wanganui River.

C. Ingle advised that the second point to investigate the price of fabric sock for the slip in the Granite Creek catchment was found to be pointless. C. Ingle reported that a consultant engineer gave advice on this matter, but after a visit to this area by council staff it was found that the fabric sock solution was never going to work. C. Ingle conferred with W. Moen on this and W. Moen advised that there is no short term solution for Granite Creek. W. Moen stated that the amount of fine sediment that Granite Creek is carrying is ongoing and unless something is built at the top of the catchment then there is nothing that can be done.

C. Ingle stated that the option of digging out the Granite Creek channel that has been discussed several times but the prevailing view is that this option would be unaffordable, as it would still constantly fill up again. C. Ingle advised that nothing further has been done on this option other than a resource consent process for a new channel into the estuary that was started but was put on hold. C. Ingle stated that at last year's meeting this was discussed and then discussed at the Karamea rating district meeting and they agreed to do the top end of this catchment but nothing else. C. Ingle advised that council was trying to get support from the wider valley rather than just the Kongahu rating district. R. Anderson stated that the build up under the Granite Creek Bridge would be the district council's problem if the bridge were affected. C. Ingle advised that using the Blackwater outlet for the contour channel could also be an option. C. Ingle stated he would be interested to hear whether or not backing up and flooding of Granite Creek has been a problem for people at the bottom end of the catchment. Cr Archer encouraged the meeting to decide whether or not they want to wait for the opportunity for this to be done free if that is possible or does the rating district want to spend some money and pay for some expert advice. L. Kees stated that they are no further ahead today than what they were two years ago.

Moved: *"That \$5,000 be spent on engaging a Consultant to investigate options for keeping the Little Wanganui River floodwaters out of the scheme."*

L. Kees / R. Anderson – Carried

W. Moen advised that he is doubtful as to whether removing all the willows is going to improve flow capacity enough to stop overflows going into the top of the scheme. G. Volckman stated that these willows were never planted manually. G. Volckman feels that silt build up is what has created the problem and if it is building up under the bridge then silt will be building up everywhere else as well. Extensive discussion took place. G. Volckman asked why is a consultant is needed to tell them what to do when they could decide for themselves. R. Anderson stated that the flow of water down into the swamp needs to be stopped and someone needs to come up with an idea on how to do this. R. Anderson stated that building the road up won't help. B. Jones stated that a consultant needs to be asked to come up with a recommendation on the best way of reducing the flow of floodwater through the swamp and it needs to be fair and equitable for everyone. W. Moen stated this is the key and whatever is done will require a resource consent and all parties have to be happy to sign off on this. B. Jones stated that his intent has always

been to reduce the flow of water into the swamp and not to stop it completely. Everyone present agreed with this statement.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010 / 2011

W. Moen spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance at the start of the financial year was \$46,137.70 and the closing balance as at 30 June 2011 was very similar at \$46,731.67. W. Moen stating that the balance is holding equilibrium.

Moved: ***"That the financial report for the 2010 / 2011 year be adopted".***

L. Kees / R. Anderson - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen spoke to this report advising that \$7,088 worth of works were done during the 2010 / 2011 financial year. These works included surveying of the road, clearance of drains on the Volckman and Kees properties and aerial spraying.

W. Moen reported that after discussions with the spokesperson in July no additional works were identified. He advised that letters were sent out to all ratepayers to ascertain any drain clearing requirements. W. Moen advised that he has allowed \$8,500 for unforeseen works, which includes the aerial spraying for the coming year.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2010 / 2011 financial year be adopted.***
- 2. That the 2011 / 2012 works proposals be approved.***

G. Volckman / B. Jones – Carried

L. Kees stated that there is a small job needing to be done at the end of the straight heading to Karamea. W. Moen advised that small jobs like this are left up to the spokesperson and the committee to deal with. B. Jones advised that there is a small maintenance job in the contour channel requiring attention as well. It was agreed that the committee would address both of these small jobs.

2012 / 2013 RATE STRIKE

W. Moen suggests that the status quo remain for the rate strike again this year. He recommends that the rate strike is \$7,600 GST Excl.

RECOMMENDATION

"That the rate strike for the 2012 / 2013 financial Year is \$7,600 (GST Excl)."

B. Jones / R. Anderson – Carried

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND SPOKESPERSON

It was noted that all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee.

Moved: *"That the entire rating district are on the rating district committee for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."*

B. Jones / G. Volckman- Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."*

L. Kees / R. Anderson – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer read out a letter addressed to B. Jones from Clive Hellyar advising that Mr Hellyar and K. Gavigan do not want any action on the section of the contour drain that runs along their boundary, either mechanical or spraying. B. Jones responded that each year this couple make the same request and to the best of his knowledge there was nothing done in this area again this year. B. Jones advised that this section of the contour drain is part of the scheme and should it need to be cleaned out then the committee reserves the right to clean it. F. Bjerring stated that there is good flow in this area. W. Moen stated that if planting of flax is done it is important there is access should a cleanout be needed.

Cr Archer asked the meeting if they wished to discuss further options for the remediation of Granite Creek. B. Jones stated that he feels there is no point in trying to deal with Granite Creek. He stated that he is affected by it in other ways and feels that the Kongahu rating district is not getting any traction in seeking help from the Karamea rating district. B. Jones stated that Granite Creek has minimal impact on the swamp itself and he would rather pursue different means of dealing with this that would be permanent. B. Jones stated that R. Anderson suggested some time ago to run a channel beside the swamp side of Granite Creek road and out through where Blackwater Bridge was. B. Jones stated that he has come up with a slightly different channel to this, which is pretty much already formed. This is 70 metres up from the Contour Channel Bridge and there is already a hollow in this area that links up with a major drain further on and would then go out through the creek behind B. Jones's house. This would go through a floodgate and the amount of water going through this might need to be restricted. B. Jones stated in times of flood there would still need to be an outlet through Granite Creek and a floodgate would be needed to stop saltwater going in. B. Jones also suggested putting in a 1200 ml pipe under the bank. B. Jones displayed a map and explained the plan in detail to the meeting. Cr Archer invited the meeting to view the map and plan. Discussion took place on the use of a floodgate in this area. It was noted that John Hyndman and Stewart McGregor would need to be agreeable to this plan. It was agreed that B. Jones's plan is investigated further and W. Moen and B. Jones would look at options for the bottom end of Granite Creek and Graham Smart would look at options for the flood flows from the Little Wanganui.

B. Jones asked W. Moen for clarification on the resource consent for cleanouts in the Otumahana Estuary Blackwater Channel. W. Moen advised that there is a current consent for cleaning out the Blackwater. B. Jones asked if there is a definite 1 km restriction from the Blackwater Culvert to the estuary on this consent. C. Ingle asked B. Jones if the Otumahana Estuary needs cleaning out again but further out. B. Jones stated that this is a carry over affect from when Granite Creek did meet up with the estuary and the gravel is now causing restriction. W. Moen agreed to check the consent conditions and report back to B. Jones.

R. Steadman addressed the meeting. He stated that he has purchased a property at Captains Creek and the Little Wanganui River is eroding part of his land. He advised that he felt that this forum might be an opportunity for him to get advice on what to do about this erosion. R. Steadman stated that W. Moen has visited his property. B. Jones stated that he felt Mr Steadman's problem might relate more to the Karamea rating district rather than Kongahu. B.

Jones stated that the Little Wanganui itself is part of the Karamea rating district and the Kongahu rating district deals with the swamp and is a drainage scheme. R. Steadman was advised to attend that next meeting at the Karamea Fire Station today. W. Moen advised R. Steadman that it is the responsibility of the landowner to combat erosion on their own property. W. Moen advised R. Steadman that the Karamea rating district is not in the habit of paying for capital works as the affected owner would initially pay for the works and then two years after construction the rating district may take over the maintenance of the works. It was noted that R. Steadman would need a resource consent for these potential works. W. Moen advised that under the permitted activity rule a landowner could reform the bank line to where it was before if this work can be done within five working days. C. Ingle advised that the permitted activity rule does allow for work to be done in a wet riverbed but there are conditions on this. He advised that the permitted activity rules are on the council website under Land and Water Plan. Cr Archer advised R. Steadman to contact W. Moen once he has decided what he wants to do and W. Moen will be able to provide some direction on this matter.

T. Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.00

Action Points for follow up

- W. Moen to provide level information to the committee on the proposed raising of the road at Little Wanganui.
- W. Moen to check consent conditions on the Otumahana Estuary consent and report back to B. Jones.
- C. Ingle to engage Mr G. Smart to assess options for preventing the Little Wanganui floodwaters spilling into the scheme.