

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2013, COMMENCING AT 11.00 AM

PRESENT

C. Hellyar, R. Hedgman, B. Jones, K. Kees, F & B. Bjerring, R. Anderson, G & F. Volckman

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

B. Meek. L. Kees

B. Jones / K. Kees - Carried

BUSINESS

R. Scarlett opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 18 October 2012, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the amendment of the typographical error on page 3."*

B. Jones / R. Hedgman - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no further matters arising from the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2012 / 2013

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that there is quite a bit of staff time and resource consent fees this year. C. Ingle stated that it was easier to get the resource consent through for the stopbank at L. Kees's property that it was for the estuary consent. C. Ingle stated that this took up a lot of time but he got there in the end. C. Ingle advised that the closing balance as of 30 June 2013 was \$34,843.05.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen spoke to this report advising that \$4,587.20 worth of works were done during the 2012 / 2013 financial year, this included some minor surveying work done by Murray Watts for the proposed stopbank. W. Moen reported that after an inspection and discussion with the spokesperson on 13 August 2013 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 \$4,500 for unforeseen works, which includes the aerial spraying for the coming year.

C. Ingle explained the target balance and "prudent reserve" system. He advised that all rating districts have been given a prudent reserve figure which sets an amount of money that might need following an emergency flood event. C. Ingle advised that a target balance for this rating district has been set at \$50,000. He stated that once this figure has been reached then a smaller rate strike can be considered.

2014 / 2015 RATE STRIKE

The recommended rate strike is \$7,600 GST Excl for the coming financial year. Discussion took place on the rate strike.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District remains at \$7,500 for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."*

G. Volckman / B. Jones – Carried

PROPOSED NEW CAPITAL WORKS

W. Moen advised that at the annual meeting in 2012 he was asked to bring a proposal for the proposed diversion of a stopbank on L. Kees's property. W. Moen advised that a resource consent is in place for this work to be done. The next step is now to get the green light from the rating district to progress this work. W. Moen stated that the resource consent is to put a stopbank across L. Kees's property to the Wildlife Sanctuary to try slow down the flow. W. Moen advised that he is expecting this work to come in at a cost of around \$22,000.

G. Volckman feels that he is an affected party to these works and this is stated in the minutes. W. Moen explained that the consenting department processes the resource consents and decides who is an affected party. Cr Scarlett stated that there are remedies if someone believes they are an affected party. G. Volckman stated that it was requested previously that the levels on the houses close to the spurs be taken but this has not been done. C. Ingle stated that these levels can still be done before the works go ahead. W. Moen advised that he has levels done around Mrs Kees property. Discussion took place on the consent process. It was agreed that M. Watts would be asked to undertake the survey levels in this area as soon as possible. C. Ingle suggested that on the basis that the levels work out and are not likely to cause problems then a meeting is reconvened so that this work can be progressed. R. Hedgman stated that before the swamp was developed the water used to come through this area but it did take longer to get there because there was bush and scrub it had to get through first. R. Hedgman stated now the flood waters come through fast and three farms can be underwater for up to three weeks.

Moved: *"That survey levels be taken, this information be circulated and a meeting is convened and a decision is made at this meeting."*

K. Kees / 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 2013 / 2014 financial year."*

R. Anderson / C. Hellyar - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2013 / 2014 financial year."*

R. Anderson / C. Hellyar – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

B. Jones advised that the spread of Parrots Feather through the swamp has now become quite a big issue for the rating district. He stated that Round Up spray is not a strong enough spray to deal with this, he asked if there a spray that will deal with this. C. Ingle asked if DoC is managing Parrots Feather in the area. G. Volckman stated that DoC were dealing with it but last year they opted out of this. R. Anderson stated that nothing is working with this pest. G. Volckman stated that Parrot Feather is the biggest threat to the swamp. B. Jones stated he has been able to keep it under semi control by using Round Up but this only keeps it at bay and does not kill it. B. Jones asked if another sort spray could be used. R. Anderson stated that he cannot believe how much it has spread in the last 12 months.

B. Jones expressed his thanks to P. Birchfield and C. Ingle for their work with the consent process for the estuary. C. Hellyar stated that the slip at the top of Granite Creek is now stable and now vegetated.

R. Hedgman asked if there has been any progress with the cleanout of Granite Creek. It was noted that Buller District Council are now looking into Granite Creek problem and are looking at clearing the bridge area. C. Ingle stated that the tricky thing is what to do with the spoil. R. Hedgman stated that it is a good thing that the district council are now looking at this matter. It was agreed that C. Ingle and W. Moen will discuss this matter with Buller District Council.

T. Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

Action Points for follow up

- W. Moen to arrange for M. Watts to carry out survey work, urgently.
- Arrange a further meeting for later in October.
- C. Ingle to follow up with Parrots Feather control methods.