

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 28 OCTOBER 2015, COMMENCING AT 11.03 AM

PRESENT

B. Jones, K. Kees, L. Kees, F. Bjerring, R. Anderson, G & F. Volckman

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
N. Clementson (Councillor)
C. Ingle, (CEO), P. Birchfield, C. Doake, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Cr Archer, C. Hellyar, B. Meek

B. Jones / R. Anderson - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Clementson 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 20 November 2014, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

B. Jones / G. Volckman - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

G. Volckman noted that the resource consent for the top section of the scheme runs out in 2016. He asked if this would be renewed. P. Birchfield stated that this area is the Blackwater Channel area which runs into the estuary, which Council is putting into the Coastal Plan. The Coastal Plan is yet to be notified for submissions but is going to the Council meeting on 9 November. P. Birchfield stated that if this goes to plan then a resource consent won't be required. C. Ingle stated that provision in the Coastal Plan for Granite Creek to go out into the estuary is also required. B. Jones stated that for the cleanout done in the estuary last time there was a 2 km mark. He stated that this is where the Karamea River mouth is now.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014 / 2015

C. Ingle spoke to this report. C. Ingle advised that the opening balance as of 30 June 2014 was \$26,993.93 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2015 was \$21,348.77. G. Volckman asked what the costs to the resource consent relate to. P. Birchfield advised that the costs relate to a compliance officer doing an inspection of resource consent for the spoil alongside the contour channel and relates to Mr Meek's property. C. Ingle advised that Mr Meek has accused Council of being non-compliant with its resource consent to clean out the whole of the drainage scheme. He has said that council allowed Mr MacGregor to clean out the bottom end and now Mr Meek is saying that the drain cleanout has created a stopbank. Compliance staff visited this area to confirm that there was not a stopbank and now Mr Meek is taking council and Mr MacGregor to court. C. Ingle confirmed that a consent holder normally has to pay for a compliance visit. B. Jones questioned why the rating district is being charge for this visit if they are not in the wrong.

C. Ingle stated that the court proceedings are yet to decide who is wrong. Extensive discussion took place.

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$7,617 worth of works were done during the reporting period. This included spraying for Parrots Feather.

Discussion took place on the NIWA report on the flooding alleviation at Granite Creek. A speaker asked if BDC or NZTA are going to pay anything towards the clean out of Granite Creek. It was felt that it is BDC role to seek funding from NZTA for this work. G. Volckman asked how long down from the bridge would be cleaned out. P. Birchfield stated this would be about 1 km. Extensive discussion took place. L. Kees stated that he is reluctant for any of his rates to be spent on Granite Creek while there are still problems with Parrots Feather. He feels Granite Creek is irrelevant as BDC and NZTA will do something about Granite Creek once their bridges or roads are affected. L. Kees feels that it is a waste of money to keep clearing Granite Creek with the amount of gravel that is continually coming down from the slip. Extensive discussion ensued on this matter. It was noted that not everyone's property is affected by Granite Creek and the Karamea rating district are reluctant to contribute to this ongoing problem. C. Ingle stated that there is now an acceptance from the whole community that Granite Creek is a problem area, and that something can be done about it and the question now is what would be a fair way of paying for it? B. Jones stated that BDC will not do anything except accept the subsidies to fix the road. Discussion took place on how to fund the clean out of Granite Creek. C. Ingle suggested a five way funding split with B. Jones, S. McGregor, both contributing out of their own pockets, the two rating districts each contributing and BDC. C. Ingle suggested that the bottom end of Granite Creek is the first section to be cleaned out then it might only be around \$1500 for this rating district to fund. C. Ingle stated that some of the members of this rating district are the most affected. Extensive discussion took place on the proposed works and the costs the rating district has incurred over the years. R. Anderson asked where the spoil from Granite Creek would go. B. Jones stated that he is happy for the spoil to go onto his paddocks. G. Volckman stated that farmers may be happy to buy some of the gravel spoil for their farm races. C. Ingle stated that by having the funding split the rating district can be the leader of the project but only contribute a modest amount of money. He stated that this would not cut into money that could be used for the eradication of Parrots Feather which is the first priority for this rating district. Discussion took place on the future works and options for the Contour Channel. It was agreed that this matter would be parked and discussed again in general business.

Parrots Feather Work

Cr Clementson introduced Cameron Doake, WCRC's Biosecurity Officer, to the meeting. C. Ingle stated that C. Doake would answer questions about Parrots Feather. C. Doake asked the meeting how they felt the area looks following last season's control work and how they feel the best way to approach it this season is. C. Doake stated that he is reasonably happy with this work but said there are a couple of patches on B. Jones's land still to be treated. G. Volckman stated that the spraying went very well and he reckons the drains are clearer now than they ever were. He stated that Garlon seems to have done a better job than Round up. C. Doake advised that Garlon is recommended by scientists and is the spray that they have had the most luck with. He stated that the contractors have done trials with Garlon and a couple of other herbicides which have been approved for use in water. C. Doake explained the history of other herbicides but he feels that Garlon is the best option for Parrots Feather. C. Doake stated that the contractors are only on site for two days and a lot of time is needed to inspect humps and hollows on farms. C. Doake printed off and handed out aerial photographs of each landowner's property and asked them to mark the areas that have Parrots Feather growing. He stated that this is the most cost effective way to identify areas of infestation. C. Doake stated that he will collect the photographs back when it is time to do the next lot of spraying. C. Doake advised that last year the spraying was done by helicopter but he feels where there is long grass on the banks it is a struggle to get penetration through the grass and therefore ground control is better as more chemical can be applied. C. Doake confirmed that all of the main drain was sprayed. C. Doake stated that Garlon does not kill

grass. He stated that vegetation spraying that is usually done with Round Up was missed last year but it can be done this year if that is the wish of the rating district. C. Doake advised that the best way forward is an early spray with Garlon once a good growth rate is happening then a follow up spray at the back end of the season. The vegetation spray with Round Up can be done on the back of the first Garlon treatment, if desired. L. Kees spoke of an area that needs further attention. C. Doake advised that the contractors used kayaks to spray in some areas and this area would be a good area to use a kayak in if access is difficult. C. Doake advised that the biggest patches will stand out and they are the biggest threat. He stated that once the aerial photographs are marked by the landowners he will be looking to get everything that is marked sprayed. C. Ingle advised that further aerial photography will be done in late summer. He stated that WCRC want to get the Parrots Feather eliminated which may take several years. C. Ingle stated that the costs is \$2,250 per ground control which is about \$4,500 per year but if the aerial spraying is also required then the cost is an additional \$4,500 for the Round up. This amount could be saved if the Round Up isn't required. It was agreed that this work wouldn't be done unless the rating district contacts C. Doake. C. Ingle advised that if the willows are removed for \$1,800, Parrots Feather work is \$4,500, and Granite Creek clean out contribution is only \$2,000 to \$3,000, then these costs will fit within the \$10,000 rate take for this year. It was agreed that this work would be done as long as the other funders agree.

Moved: *"That \$4,500 be spent on spraying, the willows are removed from along the bank of Granite Creek, and that \$2,000 is spent on cleaning out Granite Creek and the Otumahana Estuary."*

L. Kees / F. Bjerring – Carried

2016 / 2017 RATE STRIKE

The recommended rate strike is \$10,000 for the coming financial year.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is \$10,000 for the 2016 / 2017 financial year."*

B. Jones / G. Volckman – 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 2015 / 2016 financial year."*

R. Anderson / L. Kees - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2015 / 2016 financial year."*

R. Anderson / L. Kees – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

L. Kees raised the matter of existing resource consent being transferred to him for the installation of a culvert on his property. He stated that he is happy to pay the \$50 transfer fee for the consent transfer.

C. Doake asked those present if they were happy for him to have access to their properties today to check on Parrots Feather infestations.

B. Jones advised the meeting of the people need to be aware of potential problems with wetlands on this land. He stated there is a wetland at the front of R. Hedgman's property and another area which includes the channel and the creek. B. Jones state that this could cause by an issue with

spraying and clean outs of the channel and Granite Creek. B. Jones has spoken to WCRC's Regional Planner about this. C. Ingle advised that some areas previously identified as wetlands are not wetlands as some areas were miss-drawn. Council staff are currently trying to get DoC to agree to the corrections. C. Ingle advised that it is possible to get resource consents to do works in wetlands. It was noted that the clean out of willows in Granite Creek is affected by the wetlands issue as this area is in a Schedule 2 wetland even though Granite Creek is clearly not a wetland but a creek.

N. Clementson thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.28 pm.

Action Points for follow up:

- C. Ingle to seek agreement from BDC and Karamea rating district to contribute to the Granite Creek clean out.