

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 11 NOVEMBER 2016, COMMENCING AT 11.03 AM

PRESENT

B. Jones, K. Kees, G & F. Volckman, R. Hedgman

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
T. Archer, N. Clementson (Councillor)
R. Beal, P. Birchfield, C. Doake, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

L. Kees, C. Hellyer, S. McGregor, B. Meek

G. Volckman / F. Volckman - 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 28 October 2015, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

B. Jones / K. Kees - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

P. Birchfield provided an update on the action point from last year's meeting regarding the seeking of agreement for a financial contribution from Buller District Council (BDC) and the Karamea rating district for the Granite Creek clean out. P. Birchfield advised that BDC have agreed to contribute, a resource consent is awaited and one party is yet to sign before work can commence. She stated that it may not be worth doing this work while the mouth of the river is in its current situation. P. Birchfield explained the exact area which is just above the contour channel, 300 – 400 metres down from the bridge. She stated that DoC would not allow a full cleanout of Granite Creek but some work has been done under emergency works. B. Jones stated this work was done when the estuary was completely blocked. Cr Archer advised that the criteria for the carrying out of emergency works is that they can only be done if infrastructure is at risk.

B. Jones spoke about his submission on the Coastal Plan. He advised that he has made a submission in support of work that is done in the estuary to become a permitted activity and is on behalf of the rating district. B. Jones stated that DoC has advised that no cleanouts should be done from March – April as this is the whitebait spawning season. He stated that

DoC is opposed to any work being done in the Blackwater Channel but they will permit work on Granite Creek to 300 metres below the bridge. B. Jones stated that this is completely opposite to what they have permitted in the past. G. Volckman stated that DoC should have a standard policy on this. Cr Archer explained the submission and hearing process to the meeting. Extensive discussion took place on historic work done in this area. P. Birchfield tabled a map which shows where the river mouth is at the moment.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014 / 2015

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance was \$21,348,77 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2016 was \$17,861.30.

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$9,803 worth of works were done during the reporting period. This included the clearing of willows, a dig out of the Blackwater Creek channel which was emergency works and spraying for Parrots Feather.

Parrots Feather Work

C. Doake, WCRC's Biosecurity Officer addressed to the meeting. He stated that the spraying work cost more than he expected, (\$4,000), and took longer than expected due to the amount of work done by hand gun. C. Doake stated he was pleased with the work done by the contractors, they worked hard but the work did take a long time. C. Doake advised that the spray work this year is likely to be done in house. It was suggested that the entire area be sprayed with Garlon, as Garlon stunts grasses, kills blackberry, watercress and the main problem weeds in this area as well as Parrots Feather. G. Volckman stated that the drains now look clearer than they have in all the years when Roundup had been used. C. Doake advised that you need to get permission from EPA to apply Garlon from the air and to spray it into water. He advised that he will apply for permission for Council to apply Garlon from the air and he is confident of getting this over the line. C. Doake advised the permission is not required to apply Roundup aerially. Cr Archer asked if the section in C. Doake's report requesting farmers to provide further information of areas affected by parrots feather that were untreated last year, is happening and if farmers are providing this information. C. Doake stated that the areas of concern are external of the main channel as the main channel will be sprayed as a matter of course. B. Jones stated that the areas that were sprayed, had a terrific effect, but he is annoyed that some areas were missed. C. Doake stated that he has reservations on how effective aerial application is, as he is not sure how well the grass is penetrated along the banks when with aerial spraying. G. Volckman stated he is pleased with the result in his area. He stated that aerial application is very cost effective but spraying with a hand gun is more effective and does a better job. C. Doake confirmed that he will be doing the next lot of spraying. B. Jones would like the spring spray planned for now and then a further spray can be done again in autumn.

2017 / 2018 RATE STRIKE

The recommended rate strike is \$10,000 for the coming financial year. The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the financial year is likely to be \$11,000.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is \$10,000 for the 2017 / 2018 financial year."*

G. Volckman / B. Jones – Carried

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND SPOKESPERSON

It was noted that all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee. It was agreed that the status quo would remain for this financial year.

Moved: ***"That the entire rating district are on the rating district committee for the 2016 / 2017 financial year."***

G. Volckman / R. Hedgman - Carried

Moved: ***"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2016 / 2017 financial year."***

G. Volckman / R. Hedgman – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

B. Jones advised that he submitted on Council's Land and Water Plan. He stated that the area had been identified as a wetland and is on his and R. Hedgman's property, the Blackwater Channel and as this is part of the Kongahu rating district infrastructure, he feels this area should be excluded from the wetland. B. Jones advised when further submissions were called for at the end of October he made another submission on behalf of the rating district. B. Jones explained the submission to the meeting, he stated his submission requests that all farming infrastructure is removed from the updated wetland maps. Cr Archer updated the meeting with the current wetlands situation. Discussion took place on the Queen's Chain and matters relating to Crown Land and wetlands. Cr Clementson stated that it is good that submissions have been made and that they are now in the system.

B. Jones advised that B. Meek has requested a clean out of his banks on the Contour Channel from the Granite Creek Road Bridge to the front of his property to clean out weed. B. Jones stated that he is unsure how effective this would be until Granite Creek is cleared out.

G. Volckman asked for an update on the matters relating to the legal issue between B. Meek and S. McGregor. P. Birchfield advised that the two parties have now come to agreement and the information to the Court has now been withdrawn. P. Birchfield advised that both parties are to do some work, S. McGregor has done his work but B. Meek is yet to do his.

P. Birchfield advised that two coastal experts from NIWA will be visiting later this month to investigate the Karamea river mouth and the impacts on the estuary. Discussion took place on where to from here with Granite Creek. It was agreed that P. Birchfield would apply for a resource consent on behalf of the rating district to clean out Blackwater Channel and Granite Creek. She stated that this will not be an easy process in view of what DoC has submitted on for the Coastal Plan. Cr Clementson asked if there would be any benefit in deepening the section where Granite Creek goes into the Karamea River and down 300 metres so that the spoil goes out to sea. B. Jones stated that the channel that was dug out over the winter will block again but if a channel was dug from his grazing area to Granite Creek and out to sea then it might draw gravel from Granite Creek out to sea. K. Kees doubted that there would be enough fall for this to be effective as the area is very flat. B. Jones stated that the resource consent is close to expiring. K. Kees advised that until something is done about Karamea River this area will continue to be a problem and the rating district needs to be careful that money isn't wasted. It was noted that some of this is the Karamea rating district's problem.

G. Volckman stated that it the drain might be blocked near R. Anderson's property. K. Kees stated this area might need a clean out. K. Kees stated that some of the drains near his property could also do with a clean out.

N. Clementson thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.10 pm.

Action Points for follow up:

- P. Birchfield to apply for a resource consent to clean out Blackwater Channel and Granite Creek.