

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 24 OCTOBER 2017, COMMENCING AT 11.05 AM

PRESENT

B. Jones, K. Kees, G & F. Volckman, R. Hedgman, B. Meek, L. Kees, R. Anderson (arrived 11.16)

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

C. Hellyer, C. Doake (WCRC staff)

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 11 November 2016, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the amendments listed below made."***

G. Volckman / B. Jones - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

B. Jones drew attention to the first paragraph in the general business section of the minutes. He stated there are several areas on his and R. Hedgman's property where areas of wetlands have been identified. B. Jones also requested that a change is made to the areas containing farming infrastructure are removed from the wetland maps. Cr Archer provided the meeting with an update on the current situation with wetlands. He advised that submissions have now closed on Plan Change 1 to the Land Water Plan, boundary adjustments have been reviewed and the hearing is expected to take place around the middle of 2018.

Discussion took place on the action point from last year's meeting, to apply for a resource consent to clean out Blackwater Chanel and Granite Creek. P. Birchfield advised that the consent is split into four sections but there is not a consent for work to be done in the estuary. P. Birchfield advised that DoC is yet to sign off on this, as it is hoped that this could be a permitted activity under the Coastal Plan.

L. Kees asked who gave the authority for the spraying of Parrots Feather on private land, he stated that his rates are for spraying the channel, and maintenance work in the channel. B. Jones stated that it was decided at a rating district meeting to treat everybody's land to try to eradicate Parrots Feather. B. Jones stated that this job was fair bigger than first thought. L. Kees expressed his concern that rating district money is being spent on Parrots Feather

eradication or Granite Creek and other work is not being done. Cr Archer disagreed and advised that it is up to the rating district to collectively agree on what work they would like done. Further discussion took place on helicopter time, work done on private property and the costs of fighting the eradication of Parrots Feather. R. Beal advised that staff are trying to keep the costs of the helicopter hire down but it is difficult to get the timings right with backlog of work and weather conditions.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2016 / 2017

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance was \$17,861.30, total revenue was \$10,723.62, total expenses were \$16,915.60 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2017 was \$11,669.32. R. Anderson stated that the rating district is running out of money. B. Jones stated that the biggest drain on the finances has been the spraying of Parrots Feather. He stated if only a \$10,000 rate is struck then a new way of dealing with Parrots Feather is needed, or the rate strike needs to be increased. R. Anderson suggested that the area is opened up so that the helicopter can get through this area. R. Beal answered various questions and advised that it is cheaper to use helicopters when they are in the area on other jobs but he is concerned that this is not working out. Discussion took place on helicopter prices, the effectiveness of the spraying work and the cost of Garlon spray.

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$13,347.23 worth of works were done during the reporting period. This included the clearing of willows, a dig out of the Blackwater Creek channel part of the Otumahana Estuary and spraying for Parrots Feather. L. Kees stated he a drain on his property requires a clean out. P. Birchfield stated that she would check this next time she is in Karamea.

P. Birchfield advised that \$17,000 has been allowed for future works, this includes \$7,000 for maintenance of existing works and spraying and \$10,000 for swamp drain cleaning and maintenance. G. Volckman stated that if the water level in the drain is low then a better result is obtained with the spraying. It was agreed that Parrots Feather has spread a lot more as a result of floods. R. Beal advised that a more consistent result will be obtained if the spraying is dealt with as a group and not in a piecemeal fashion. Cr Clementson asked the meeting if they wished to prioritise getting a helicopter in to get the best value for money, but ferry time for getting the helicopter in needs to be considered. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that it is very important that follow up spraying is done and that Garlon is used rather than Roundup. Discussion took place on the financial situation for the rating district. B. Jones queried whether some funding could be applied for to get the spraying done. Discussion took place on possibly increasing the rate strike and the need to contribute to the Granite Creek work. Cr Archer advised that the meeting needs to decide whether or not it wants to pay for spraying on the main channels, and if they want to pay to spray private property. R. Beal stated that additional funding would possibly be available if eradication is the goal. He encouraged the meeting to deal with Parrots Feather as a group. R. Beal confirmed that Parrots Feather is a noxious weed. R. Anderson stated that floods in the Little Wanganui River are the cause of the spread of Parrots Feather. It was agreed that a better effort needs to be made with the spraying programme. K. Kees stated he is happy for the rating district to continue to pay for the clearance of the contour drains but individual farmers should pay for spraying on their own land.

Moved: ***"That the spraying reverts back to the original intent of the rating district to include spraying of the main drains, contour drains and boundary drains which are the Kongahu Rating District assets, and all internal drains are the responsibility of the landowner."***

L. Kees / B. Meek – Carried

R. Anderson, F & G. Volckman and B. Jones were against the motion. There were four people in favour of the motion (L. Kees, B. Meek, K. Kees and R. Hedgman). Cr Archer advised that the status quo remains. Cr Archer stated there has to be a consensus, therefore the motion was carried. G. Volckman asked how this would be policed if one landowner doesn't do their property. Cr Archer stated that if this happens then the whole scheme is compromised. Cr Archer advised that meeting that some direction and coordination will be required so that Council staff know whether or not landowners want ground or aerial spraying and when they want it done. G. Volckman stated that he would not want the helicopter to do his property as he will do it himself.

2018 / 2019 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 \$4,800. It was noted that the \$17,000 that has been allowed for future works will now be less as it is likely that there will not be as much helicopter time. Discussion took place on future works including the removal of trees and spraying.

Moved: ***"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is \$10,000 for the 2018 / 2019 financial year."***

L. Kees / K. Kees – 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 2017 / 2018 financial year."***

G. Volckman / R. Anderson - Carried

Moved: ***"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2017 / 2018 financial year."***

G. Volckman / R. Anderson – Carried

B. Jones stated that he will not be arranging the spraying of Garlon; it is up to individuals to book their own spraying. R. Hedgman expressed thanks to B. Jones for all the work he does for the rating district. All present agreed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

N. Clementson thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.17 pm.