

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL
ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 11.30 AM

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

C. Hellyar, K. Gavigan, S. MacGregor, F. Bjerring

Moved: *"That the apologies be accepted".*

R. Anderson / G. 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 23 October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.*

B. Jones / F. Volckman - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

B. Jones asked where things are at with the Land and Water Plan hearing. Cr Archer advised that hopefully, the final hearing was held last week, and it is likely to be 3 – 4 weeks before final decision is to hand. Cr Archer stated it is likely this will be signed off by the new council.

L. Kees stated that he is waiting for P. Birchfield to inspect a drain on his property. It was agreed that P. Birchfield would carry out this inspection on Monday.

Resource consents for the drain cleanout, Otamahana estuary (this is expired but can still be used), Granite Creek, and the resource consents for rock work were discussed. P. Birchfield advised that the existing structures can be maintained under the permitted activity rules. She stated that at the moment all three resource consents are on hold due to the Coastal Plan, Land and Water Plan or affected party approval which is awaited.

Discussion took place on the opening estuary. B. Jones stated that this has become a case of too bigger a job. He stated it took too long to get anywhere with and there is a huge amount of sand to be moved and this is not realistic. It was noted that the Otamahana estuary is now running into the Karamea River.

Discussion took place on the effectiveness of Garlon and the supply of Garlon. B. Jones stated that he has applied three doses of Garlon, evenly spaced, and has now nearly wiped out Parrots Feather on his property. He stated he is pleased with how clean the drains are at the moment. It was noted that there is still a problem on the MacGregor's place as it was

only sprayed once last season. It was agreed that Parrots Feather control would be discussed later in the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018 / 2019

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance was \$15,252.55, total revenue was \$10,398.08, total expenses were \$24,004.80 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2019 was \$1,645.83. P. Birchfield answered questions relating to the report. It was agreed that a further breakdown of the financial report would be sent out to the rating district.

Moved: *"That the financial report is received".*

G. Volckman / F. Volckman – Carried

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$2,599.15 worth of works were done during the reporting period. This included the clean outlet of Blackwater Creek channel, and spraying for Parrots Feather.

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.

Parrots Feather Control

G. Volckman asked if Parrots Feather work is to continue. J. Curry advised that an Envirolink application was submitted and a grant received to carry out a feasibility study on the eradication of Parrots Feather. She advised that part of the grant was to investigate different chemicals that could be used, to reduce costs and to hopefully be able to do two sprays per season. J. Curry advised that Metsulfuron spray will be trialled on the MacGregor's property, this is much cheaper, than what has been used in the past. J. Curry advised that once the trial is completed there will then be an indication as to which chemical will be used going forward. She stated that two sprays per year have worked well. It was noted that last year the rate strike was increased so that two sprays each year could be done in the hope that this would make a dent in Parrots Feather. One spray was done in December last year, and one in April. The two sprays have worked well in Blackwater Creek and those farmers who sprayed twice have received a good result. MacGregor's did not spray in April and this is the worst area now. J. Curry advised that Niwa is involved with the trial and are pleased with how things are looking after two sprays per season. J. Curry advised that the timing of the sprays is one in spring and again in March/ April. J. Curry stated that results of trials are due in February then recommendations on future management will follow. J. Curry advised that the suggested timing for the next spray is October / November. J. Curry advised that there is still a lot of Parrots Feather in side creeks and on farm that could reinfest the main drain. She stated that the Niwa work will involve looking for a cheaper spray so that more applications can be done. Drones may be used for application, but only over small areas. It was noted that the main drain will need to be kept clear and spray will need to be applied via helicopter, it was noted that this area is now looking pretty clear. J. Curry advised that to move towards eradication, every bit of Parrots Feather needs to be sprayed with two sprays per year and everyone doing their own on farm spraying, with follow up spray as required. Discussion took place and it was noted that the amount of chemical required and flying time could be reduced this year. G. Volckman stated that if the rating district wants to get rid of Parrots Feather they need to keep at it but he feels that \$17,000 is not enough to do something similar to last year. It was noted that the floodgates are starting to age, and will sooner or later something will need to be done about them. It was agreed that some money needs to be kept in reserve. R. Hedgman stated that each flood spreads the Parrots Feather further. It was noted that Garlon is a good spray but is expensive at \$600 per 20 litres. It was agreed that a spray would be done before Christmas and possibly another one after Christmas. It was also agreed that the same programme would continue next year with two aerial sprays of Garlon.

Moved: *"That the same spraying programme as last year, with two aerial sprays is approved for 2019 / 2020."*

B. Jones / R. Hedgman – Carried

Moved: *"That the works report for 2019 / 2020 is approved."*

B. Jones / B. Bjerring – Carried

2020 / 2021 RATE STRIKE

The recommended rate strike is \$20,000 for the coming financial year. The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the financial year is likely to be \$9,800.

Moved: *"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is \$20,000 for the 2020 / 2021 financial year."*

B. Jones / B. Bjerring – Carried
Against L. Kees

L. Kees stated that he is not receiving any work on his property and he feels that money is being pumped in to the scheme but he is not getting any benefit. He stated that he is paying K. Kees to clean out his drains. B. Jones advised L. Kees that the rating district will pay for work on his property as he is part of this scheme, and is paying into it.

R. Anderson spoke of a drain that is causing concern, it was agreed that P. Birchfield would investigate this area next week when she visits L. Kees property.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND SPOKESPERSON

It was noted that all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee. B. Jones raised the matter of all members of the rating district being on the committee. He stated that 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 2019 / 2020 financial year."*

G. Volckman / R. Anderson - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."*

B. Bjerring / R. Hedgman – Carried

Cr Clementson thanked B. Jones for the work he does on behalf of the rating district.

GENERAL BUSINESS

B. Jones thanked Crs Archer and Clementson for their service to the rating district over the years. It was noted that Cr Archer has been on Council for 12 years and Cr Clementson has served six years. All present agreed with B. Jones's and endorsed his comments.

Cr Clementson thanked the meeting and stated that he would like to see the rating district get on top of the issue with Parrots Feather.

It was agreed that the meeting papers would be emailed out to the rating district in future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.26 pm.

Action Points:

- R. Beal to email a financial breakdown for the \$11,000 to rating district.

- Email reports out to rating district.