

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KOWHITIRANGI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2010, COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM.

PRESENT

R. Burdon, A. Godfrey, K. Nolan, S. Keenan, B. Godfrey, P. Cook, J. Michell, T. Burdon (arrived 10.32), N. Monk (arrived 10.35), T. Taft (arrived 10.36)

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
B. Chinn, D. Davidson (Councillors)
C. Ingle, W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

B. Paterson

A. Godfrey / P. Cook - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr. Chinn opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 19 October 2009, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

A. Godfrey / R. Burdon - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2010. He reported that the opening balance at 1 July 2009 was \$83,765.18. The rate strike during the reporting period was \$10,000 and total expenses were \$23,295.80 of which \$20,000 of this was costs for contractors. This left the account with a current credit balance of \$72,346.80

Moved: ***"That the financial report for the 2009 / 2010 Year be adopted".***

S. Keenan / P. Cook - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. He reported that \$20,018.00 worth of work was carried out up until 30 June 2010. W. Moen advised that he carried out an inspection on 15 July 2010 and no

works were identified but he suggests that \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance be allowed for.

S. Keenan stated that a lot of the money that was spent last year was on retard No. 4 which is up at the top of the scheme. He stated that he and A. Godfrey checked this area yesterday and it is looking good. S. Keenan stated that the rating district committee is hopeful that there won't be any further expenses coming up in the foreseeable future.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Works Report covering the 2009 / 2010 financial year be adopted.

2. That the 2010 / 2011 works proposals be approved.

S. Keenan / R. Burdon – Carried

RATES 2011 / 2012

W. Moen advised that the rate strike was \$10,000 last year and therefore the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of 2011 / 2012 is likely to be approximately \$75,600. W. Moen suggested that the rate strike for the coming year is increased to \$20,000. S. Keenan stated that he feels that the main points of interest regarding future works are good and the contracted work went well with almost 18 months of work done in 12 months. He advised that the cross section analysis work has now been done which cost money as well so the committee feel that although the balance is down a bit, on average the committee feels that a rate strike of \$10,000 is fine and if necessary they can up the rate strike next year.

RECOMMENDATION

"That the rate strike for the 2011 / 2012 financial Year is \$10,000 (GST Excl)."

S. Keenan / K. Nolan – Carried

W. Moen advised that the cross sections on the Hokitika River are done every three years and were done in March this year. The result is that there is a 300,000 m³ general build up over three years over the length of the scheme. W. Moen stated that an eye needs to be kept on this as it may affect the bank but at this stage it is fine. S. Keenan stated that he is interested in the breakdown of the cross section report and would like to see an analysis graphed out over the three years going back 20 – 30 years. It was agreed that W. Moen would send S. Keenan a plot of the cross sections. S. Keenan stated that he has always felt that the Hokitika River is a fairly safe and stable river and he would be interested in the history of the river. Discussion took place on the history of the river and the current areas of gravel build up.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee. S. Keenan stated that nobody has contacted him requesting to come off or join the committee. He suggested that the status quo remain.

Moved: ***" That the committee consist of the following: -***

S. Keenan

R. Burdon

P. Cook

T. Taft

K. Nolan

A. Godfrey

be re-elected as the committee for the 2010 / 2011 financial year."

S. Keenan / T. Taft - Carried

Moved: "That S. Keenan be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2010 / 2011 financial year."

T. Taft / A. Godfrey – Carried

Cr Chinn thanked S. Keenan for his work, he noted that S. Keenan and the committee have inspected the groynes prior to today's meeting and this makes it easier for Council.

GENERAL BUSINESS

K. Nolan raised the matter of DoC taking over freehold property and calling these wetlands. C. Ingle responded that he feels that some of the information that has been in the local papers is not quite accurate. C. Ingle advised that the Regional Council is currently in the Environment Court against DoC at the moment. The Regional Council put forward 22 wetlands that they feel are significant and needed some rules under the RMA to protect them, this is not taking land off people but saying that a consent is needed for humping and hollowing and some mitigation measures might be required. C. Ingle advised that DoC believe that there is more likely to be 180 wetlands and not 22 that are significant. C. Ingle stated that this is what is being fought in court at the moment. He advised that at the moment the three plans - Water Plan, Land and Riverbed Plan and Discharge to Land Plan are being merged into one plan and the reason is to simplify the plans. C. Ingle advised that there would be extra rules put in place for the Lake Brunner catchment as water quality is declining in this lake. C. Ingle advised that there are no changes to wetland rules. C. Ingle spoke of the second variation process that the regional council has gone through. He stated that he consulted with all the landowners personally. C. Ingle advised that the regional council has now attended two court hearings, but he advised that currently the court is stuck on what is and isn't a significant wetland on the West Coast. The regional council went back to court to clarify criteria for wetland significance. Cr Chinn advised that three councillors voted against schedule 1 going into the plan because they felt that compensation for landowners or land swaps had not been addressed. C. Ingle stated that the wetland rules couldn't be taken out of the Plan because we are under challenge in the Environment Court.

S. Keenan asked what are landowners rights now if they have land that DoC perceives should go into schedule 1 but isn't in there yet and if they wanted to do drainage work could the landowner do it now prior to the land going into schedule 1. C. Ingle responded that work could be done now. S. Keenan stated that council should inform landowners of this now. C. Ingle advised that he had thought that Federated Farmers had volunteered to make affected landowners aware if they had "new" wetlands on their land. C. Ingle stated that everything that has been before the court is public information and this information has been supplied to newspapers. C. Ingle advised that he feels that court have taken on board council's concerns over the DoC criteria and their proposed "good example" wetland criterion. He is hoping that the decision will go council's way. C. Ingle advised that DoC is not going to buy the land off people but they are saying that special rules should apply for example if a farmer wants to hump and hollow an area of land he must set aside the wetland area if through the consenting process it is found to be significant. S. Keenan stated that if the Minister has said that landowners of wetlands won't have to pay rates then rating districts would get smaller. S. Keenan stated that for every hectare that DoC buy they should have to rescind some other hectare elsewhere. C. Ingle advised that there is a method in Plan where councils want to encourage DoC to purchase or do a land swap with the landowner so that there is an equal amount of productive land in the region. C. Ingle spoke of his and Cr Scarlett's visit to the Minister of Conservation where they told her that this will be unsustainable for our region and that

there needs to be some even handedness about this matter. C. Ingle advised that this legal challenge by DoC has cost ratepayers close to \$200,000 in the last financial year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.02 a.m

Action Point

- W. Moen to send a copy of the cross section report and information to S. Keenan.
- C. Ingle to send wetland information to S. Keenan.