

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KOWHITIRANGI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 15 OCTOBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM.

PRESENT

P. Routhan, R. Burdon, S. Keenan, B. Godfrey, J. Michell, T. Burdon, G. Monk, T. Taft, M. Hyde

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

A. Godfrey, P. Cook, T. Little, N. Monk, B. Paterson

G. Monk / T. Taft - 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 27 October 2011, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

S. Keenan / 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 2012. He reported that the opening balance at 1 July 2011 was \$76,828.61 with income of \$12,460.30. The rate strike during the reporting period was \$10,000 and total expenses were \$737.50. This left the account with a current credit balance of \$88,551.41.

Moved: *"That the financial report for the 2011 / 2012 Year be adopted".*

S. Keenan / T. Taft - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. He reported that no works were carried out up until 30 June 2012.

W. Moen advised that he carried out an inspection on 17 of August 2012 and no works were identified but he suggests that \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance be allowed for.

S. Keenan advised that there was a flood event this weekend but he has not yet had a chance to get an update from members of the rating district to see if there are any concerns. S. Keenan advised that he would contact W. Moen if there are any concerns.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Works Report covering the 2011 / 2012 financial year be adopted.

2. That the 2012 / 2013 works proposals be approved.

M. Hyde / T. Burdon – Carried

RATES 2013 / 2014

S. Keenan moved that the rate strike be \$10,000. T. Taft asked why is a rate of \$10,000 being struck when there is no works needing doing. He stated he would like to see it held off for this year and look at it again next year. W. Moen stated he has seen some other rating districts let their account get low and then when they are hit with works they don't have the money to do them. S. Keenan stated that \$10,000 goes nowhere. W. Moen stated that the rate strike is a recommendation to council and the rating district should bear in mind that even though the rating district wants to strike a certain rate, council can change this.

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 2013 / 2014 is likely to be approximately \$92,000. P. Routhan agrees with T. Taft and stated that he is not in favour of squirreling money away. Further discussion took place on what areas are included in the rating district. W. Moen stated that in his view, as a River Engineer, it would be ideal that there is around \$150,000 in the rating district account. C. Ingle advised that last time a big job was done in this rating district it cost around \$150,000. S. Keenan stated it would be different if there were no works for several years and if there was closer to \$100,000 in the account. W. Moen stated that it is easier to put a little bit of money away each year rather than have to write out cheques if there is not enough money. The Chairman asked Mr Taft if he would like to move a zero rate strike for the next year. Mr Taft so moved. The Chairman asked for a seconder, but none was forthcoming. The motion was lost and the original motion was put.

RECOMMENDATION

"That the rate strike for the 2012 / 2013 financial Year is \$10,000 (GST Excl)."

S. Keenan / G. Monk – Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee. S. Keenan advised that he has not heard of any members of the committee that wish to retire.

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

S. Keenan

R. Burdon

P. Cook

T. Taft

A. Godfrey

be re-elected as the committee for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."

G. Monk / P. Routhan - Carried

Moved: *"That S. Keenan be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

T. Taft / P. Routhan - Carried

Cr Chinn thanked S. Keenan for his work for the rating district. Cr Chinn stated that a rating district is just as good as the committee and spokesperson and that S. Keenan is doing a very good job for the district.

GENERAL BUSINESS

S. Keenan asked C. Ingle for an update on the wetlands case. C. Ingle advised that it is not good news but we knew this a year ago. C. Ingle advised that council lost both the Environment and High Court cases. He stated that over the last 12 months staff have succeeded in getting permitted activity rules put in for the new schedule 2 wetlands. He advised that a resource consent is required if land development is undertaken. C. Ingle advised that the additional requirement for land development is an Ecologist's report. Cr Chinn thinks that this could cost about \$25,000 and then the case will go to appeal and the applicant will probably lose. C. Ingle stated his view is a little more optimistic. S. Keenan asked C. Ingle to explain what do landowners need a consent for. C. Ingle responded that consent is required for humping and hollowing and land drainage. S. Keenan asked if this applies to the cleaning out of existing drains. C. Ingle said that it does not. C. Ingle advised the meeting to ring council before they do any work so that staff can check and offer advice prior to starting works. R. Burdon asked what is the difference between a drain and a waterway. Extensive discussion ensued regarding this matter.

S. Keenan asked if those landowners that have already their wetlands mapped, are they likely to get any sort of compensation at all. C. Ingle responded that as far as he is aware there is no compensation. C. Ingle advised that a resource consent will be required, it may be declined or partially granted but that does not mean that the landowner will get compensation. C. Ingle advised that the best thing to do is to talk to DoC about them either buying the land of the landowner or DoC doing a land swap. C. Ingle advised that each landowner would be visited by the new wetlands coordinator. C. Ingle stated that there are mistakes in the maps and therefore he is keen to collect information so that this can be sorted out. R. Burdon asked if the council knows of a farmer friendly Ecologist. C. Ingle responded that Mr Vaughan Keesing, from Boffa Miskell in Christchurch is the best Ecologist that he has worked with. C. Ingle stated that Mr Keesing understands the landowner's perspective and he also understands the West Coast.

S. Keenan stated that the price for rubble at the quarry has gone up to the same price as rock at the quarry. S. Keenan asked why is this. C. Ingle stated there has been discussion on what is size is rock and what is rubble so to simplify matters it has been charged out at the same price. He stated that if council has a quarry with a build up of rubble in it that council wants rid off then it would be discounted down. S. Keenan stated that \$10 per tonne is too expensive.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.05 a.m

Action Point

- C. Ingle to look into R. Burden's wetland drainage consent.