

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LOWER WAIHO RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE FRANZ JOSEF COMMUNITY CENTRE, FRANZ JOSEF ON TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2004 COMMENCING AT 3.15 P.M.

PRESENT

R. Richards, P. Holmes, D. Lawrence

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

J. Clayton, D. Davidson, J. Wood (Councillors)

D. Horn, R. Lowe, W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

C. Brooks

BUSINESS

J. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting held on 30 April 2003, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*

J. Wood / R. Richards - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

D. Horn explained that the “cross over” boundary between the Canavan’s Knob and Lower Waiho Rating Districts had been adjusted back to the original one following submissions to last years Annual Plan.

R. Richards again expressed concern at the process given that the vast majority were comfortable with the classification boundaries as presented at last year’s A.G.M.

D. Horn outlined the provisions of the new Local Government Act, including the requirement for LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan) and the consequent compulsory provision for an estimated 10-year works expenditure programme.

He also explained that the requirements of the Act now meant that for advanced planning purposes Annual General Meeting should be held in the latter part of the year, around September / October in order to give a clear indication of the following year’s expenditure in advance.

W. Moen explained that the service fees represented mainly costs associated with the reclassification carried out in the 2003 year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statement for the 2003 financial year.

Moved: *“That the Financial Report for the 2003 financial year covering the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 be adopted.”*

R. Richards / J. Clayton - Carried

J. Wood again pointed out that all LAPP premiums are now paid for by the general ratepayer.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which also outlined possible future capital flooding and erosion protection works on the left bank of the Waiho River downstream of Canavans Knob. He outlined possible costs of raising and extending the Rubbish Dump stopbank (\$164,000 approximately) and possible funding options if the project developed.

He indicated that this issue was of extreme high priority and suggested that the works be carried out as soon as practical to prevent serious damage of downstream properties.

He also had allowed for an ongoing annual maintenance figure of \$15,000 based on previous annualised expenditure.

He briefly outlined the possible extension of a "half height" stopbank linking Milton and Others stopbank and the Rubbish Dump Stopbank at an estimated cost of approximately \$1,000,000.

R. Richards expressed grave concern at the state of and the vulnerability of the Rubbish Dump bank and endorsed W. Moen's comments.

He was appalled that the potential "outflanking" of the Rubbish Dump bank had been largely ignored by affected ratepayers and requested an urgent on-site meeting of all ratepayers to facilitate action.

Moved: ***"That W. Moen carry out preliminary designs, plans and indicative associated costs for an on-site meeting. These designs to be sent out to all ratepayers prior to an on-site meeting for discussion."***

R. Richards / D. Lawrence - Unanimous

It was suggested that an onsite meeting be held, with as many ratepayers as possible, within a month of this A.G.M.

W. Moen agreed to carry out the necessary work to accommodate this request.

W. Moen pointed out that consents had been granted for some time and works could begin as soon as the committee approved any action in this regard.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: ***"That those present be elected as the committee for the 2004 / 2005 financial year and that D. Lawrence be elected as Chairperson with R. Richards as Deputy Chairperson."***

J. Wood / R. Richards – Carried

RATES 2004 / 2005

W. Moen again urged caution at allowing the rating district account to be reduced to dangerously low levels given the potential extra works required at the top end of the Rubbish Dump bank in the very near future.

He reiterated that, in his view, evidence of the river flows through the area had deteriorated rapidly and urgent work on the consented upper stopbank should be viewed as most urgent.

He recommended a rate strike of at least \$30,000 to maintain existing structures.

Moved: ***"That the rates strike recommendation for the 2004 / 2005 financial year be set at \$30,000 + GST and for the purposes of the LTCCP an indicative rate of \$30,000 + GST for the years 2 to 10 be indicated."***

R. Richards / D. Lawrence - Unanimous

GENERAL BUSINESS

W. Moen outlined the aerial spraying programme for Milton and Others stopbank and access road.

It was suggested that Colin Dodunski of the Horse Treks be contacted prior the operation.

W. Moen agreed to contact him.

Discussion took place on the overall management of river beds.

All ratepayers present strongly supported future Regional Council control as they felt the Department of Conservation were not managing the situation in a practical way.

J. Wood endorsed those sentiments.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.00 p.m.

W. Moen
Senior Engineering Officer