

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
OKURU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE OKURU COMMUNITY HALL
ON TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2003, COMMENCING AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT

Colleen Anderson, Mauryne Cannell, Graeme Anderson, Lesley Jolly, Rex Jolly, Marg Creighton, Chris Eden

IN ATTENDANCE

D. Davidson (Councillor)
W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

J. Clayton, R. Lowe, D. Horn. (West Coast Regional Council)

BUSINESS

D. Davidson opened the inaugural meeting and welcomed all present.

FINANCIAL MINUTES

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the period from the outset of the establishment of the Okuru Rating District from 1 January 2001 to the current cut-off point of 31 December 2002.

Moved: ***“That the financial report for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002, be adopted.”***

G. Anderson / M. Cannell – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen explained that the financial reports covered a long period of time, but felt that it was important that ratepayers could follow the progress of the scheme finances to date. He also said that it was important to see how the monies raised had been spent.

R. Jolly expressed concern at the state of the general finances.

G. Anderson sought advice on the cost of administration and felt that the service fee component was excessive, given that no works had been carried out in the preceding year.

W. Moen outlined the Council's costing procedures and explained that even if no works are carried out in any one financial year a certain amount of costs are involved in maintaining the rating district. Such costs included: annual inspections, production of accounts and minutes and any other query that arises during the year.

Discussion took place on remedial works and W. Moen outlined the proposed future works.

R. Jolly was not happy to carry out any future maintenance works.

W. Moen pointed out that it was essential that the works be maintained to a required level, as it would be irresponsible for Council to “walk away” from a damaged asset.

It was emphasized that “walking away” was not an option open to Council.

D. Davidson made a comparison with the Franz Josef situation suggesting that the ratepayers of that area would be more exposed to large financial commitments and were dealing with the problem with a realistic approach.

R. Jolly asked if the Council would consider an interest free loan to cover future works. Both D. Davidson and W. Moen said that this was not an option. Council was able to offer a loan possibility at local government rates, when a situation required it.

G. Anderson asked if the LAPP Fund covered sea erosion.

W. Moen explained that if the asset was shown on the Council's register, it would be eligible for consideration by the LAPP scheme if a disaster eventuated.

D. Davidson explained that the LAPP premium, while paid for by individual rating districts in the past, was now considered by Council as being of regional benefit and as such would be funded by the general ratepayer in the future.

C. Eden asked for an explanation of vehicle costs.

W. Moen explained that all Council vehicles were charged out at a flat rate of \$0.65 per kilometre as this was generally accepted as the current local government rate throughout New Zealand.

C. Eden disagreed and produced a cost of \$0.45 / kilometre based on his calculations.

W. Moen explained that the running costs were set out in the Annual Plan and that any dispute should be made as a submission to that plan in May / June of each year.

Moved: *"That the ratepayers request the Corporate Services Manager of the Council be asked to attend the next Annual General Meeting in order to clarify some points of concern on the supplied balance sheets."*

C. Eden / C. Anderson – Unanimous

C. Eden asked why the remaining outstanding balance of \$20,000 from previous year had been apparently "disappeared" between 2001 and 2002.

W. Moen undertook to discuss this with the Corporate Services Manager and report back to the Chairperson.

D. Davidson said that he was most impressed that a small group of ratepayers had taken the hard decision to carry out the works without financial help from outside sources.

G. Anderson explained that there would be no Okuru if the works had not been carried out.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *"That the composition of the committee be as follows for the 2003 / 2004 financial year:*

G. Anderson (Chairperson / Spokesperson)

C. Eden

R. Jolly

M. Cannell

J. Reid

and that the committee have the power to co-opt up to a maximum of six ratepayers."

C. Anderson / M. Cannell – Unanimous

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion took place on the possible extension of the sea wall northwards.

W. Moen explained that the current works are included in the resource consent and if any extension was requested, an additional coastal permit would be required.

R. Jolly felt that any request to extend the existing works should be endorsed by the Committee, prior to any work being carried out.

W. Moen pointed out that it would be prudent for any individual to communicate with the Committee, if any private work was contemplated.

RATES 2003 / 2004

The level of rates required to maintain the existing works for the coming year was discussed.

It was generally felt that given the current balance of approximately \$12,500, a rate strike of \$20,000 would be required to complete the proposed work.

Moved: ***“That a rate of \$20,000 + G.S.T. be set for the 2003 / 2004 financial year.”***

C. Eden / M. Cannell - Unanimous.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Wayne Moen
Senior Engineering Officer
okuruminutes03