

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WAITANGI-TAONA RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE WHATAROA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2002 COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

#### PRESENT

A. Nolan, D. Dennehy, R. Williams, W. Nolan, G. Dennehy, B. Graham, D. Sealby, P. Northcroft, I. O'Brien, A Friend, J. Purcell, R. Squire (DOC)

#### IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

J. Wood, D. Davidson (Councilors)  
W. Moen (Staff)

#### APOLOGIES

J. Friend, M. McBride, P. Dennehy, A. Dennehy, S. Northcroft  
J. Clayton, R. Lowe (West Coast Regional Council)

#### BUSINESS

J. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

**Moved:** *"That the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting held on 4 April 2001, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting."*

*W. Nolan / A. Friend - Carried*

#### MATTERS ARISING

Both J. Friend and J. Purcell asked for clarification on the LAPP Fund.

W. Moen explained that the Council had sought advice for alternative insurance cover from its insurance brokers, Jardine Risk.

The outcome had been that the brokers could not find a scheme that was economic or that could offer the same cover that the LAPP Fund could.

J. Wood said that the Earthquake Commission did not cover river protection works.

Discussion took place on the buildup of gravel in the Waitangitaona River.

It was explained that some cross sectional surveys had been carried out by Transit NZ.

It was asked if the chairman could be supplied with copies of the plans.

W. Moen would check this out and report back to the chairperson.

D. Dennehy asked what the criteria for a reclassification was.

W. Moen explained that there had to be a large majority (approximately 70% +) in favour of such an action to proceed with a reclassification.

W. Moen pointed out that the two signs had been supplied and W. Nolan had placed these on two access gates.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 2001 calendar year for the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001.

**Moved:** ***“That the Financial Report for the 2001 calendar year commencing at 1 January 2001 and ending 31 December 2001 be adopted.”***

*A. Nolan / W. Nolan - Carried*

## MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen gave a detailed breakdown of the service fees and explained that because the previous AGM had requested “verbatim” minutes a lot more time had been spent on these.

It was agreed that this could be relaxed and ordinary minutes would suffice.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Moved** ***“That the current committee be re-elected.”***

*J. Wood*

*The motion lapsed as no seconder was forthcoming.*

**Moved:** ***“That R. Williams be elected as Chairperson / Spokesperson of the Waitangi-taona Rating District for the 2002 / 2003 financial year.”***

*W. Nolan / P. Northcroft – Carried*

**Moved:** ***“That the committee for the 2002 / 2003 financial year be the following:***

***P. Northcroft***

***W. Nolan***

***R. Williams***

***J. Purcell***

***D. Sealby”***

*A. Nolan / D. Dennehy – Carried*

**Moved:** ***“That a letter of thanks be sent to R. Vincent as a vote of thanks for the time and effort he spent while being Chairperson of the Waitangitaona Scheme.”***

*W. Nolan / I. O’Brien - Carried*

## RATES 2002 / 2003

Discussion took place on a realistic rate strike for the coming year.

J. Wood suggested that a “zero” rate strike was realistic.

W. Moen outlined the Asset Management Plan recommendation that an annualised rate of \$15,000 was suggested.

This figure was based on past records and he indicated caution when lowering a rate strike.

W. Nolan also urged caution, as he felt the acceptance of a zero rate would send out the wrong messages to ratepayers.

**Moved:** ***“That a reduced rate of \$10,000 + GST be struck for the 2002 / 2003 financial year.”***

*P. Dennehy / W. Nolan – Carried*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Wood opened discussion on the future of the Council's quarrying operations, outlining the fact that the quarries had run at a deficit situation for the last two years and he as Councilor was most reluctant to see this situation continued as it demanded extra "topping up" from the general ratepayer.

J. Purcell supported the disposal of Council quarry operations.

J. Wood said that there should be no cross subsidisation and suggested that individual quarries could perhaps be run on a co-operative basis.

W. Moen outlined current quarry costs and indicated that rock prices varied from \$5 to \$30 from other quarries throughout NZ.

The privately owned quarries charged a lot more because they were in a profit-generated environment.

J. Wood said that 6% of the general rate was used to subsidise quarrying operations last year.

W. Nolan felt that this "subsidisation" of quarrying operations was acceptable as river protection works in general supplied a public benefit.

He was adamant that no quarry "monopolies" should be allowed to develop, as this would encourage higher rock prices if there was no competition.

W. Nolan said that an equalised pricing structure to all contractors, ensured the ratepayers always received the lowest, most economic price for river works.

**Moved:** ***"That the status quo remain, i.e. that Council continues its quarrying operations in its present form, with an estimated 6% general ratepayer input."***

*W. Nolan / P. Dennehy – Carried  
(J. Wood voted against.)*

**Moved:** ***"That a vote of thanks be forwarded to Arn. Nolan, Dennis. Dennehy and Noel Williams for their past support."***

*W. Nolan / P. Northcroft.*

D. Dennehy felt that the current rating base was inequitable.

W. Nolan pointed out that a stockpile of rock was required to address emergency situations.

He also asked that an annual inspection be carried out shortly.

R. Squire from the Department of Conservation outlined the Department's contribution towards the eradication of willow infestation in the river channel and said that 50 hectares of aerial spraying was programmed for the coming year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.06 p.m.

Wayne Moen  
Senior Engineering Officer

