

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WAITANGI-TAONA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE WHATAROA COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 2004 COMMENCING AT 10.45 A.M.

PRESENT

W. Nolan, R. Squire, G. Dennehy, D. Dennehy, A. Nolan, J. Purcell, R. Kelly,
T. McBride, D. Bowater, K. Straight, D. Nolan.

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
D. Davidson J. Wood (Councilors)
D. Horn (CEO) W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Phillip and Vera Northcroft, D. Straight, P. Dennehy
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 30 April 2003, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*

J. Wood / W. Nolan - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen introduced the issue of cross sections being carried out in order to gauge channel movements.

W. Nolan felt that the recent works could have been done sooner but was very happy at the standard of the works.

W. Moen asked that R. Squire from the Department of Conservation be thanked for the expediency achieved in the consent processing.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statement for the 2003 financial period from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003.

Moved: *“That the Financial Report for the 2003 calendar year commencing 1 January 2003 and ending 31 December 2002 be adopted.”*

D. Nolan / W. Nolan – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

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.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which spanned 10 years and outlined possible future flood protection works, in the form of raising the stopbank, by 1.5 metres over 2,000 metres.

He pointed out that no works had been carried out in the 2003 reporting period and as a result the current balance of the rating district account was approximately \$121,000 in credit.

He explained that approximately \$12,000 should be allowed for to maintain existing works assuming an ongoing commitment from Trustpower Generation. This figure did not include any potential future capital works.

Possible capital works for the scheme over the next 10 years involve the raising and extension of the existing stopbank.

The lower end of the scheme is not stop-banked to an appropriate level and would need to be extended down over a distance of approximately 500 metres in the future. Total projections for stopbank work could be approximately \$450,000.

The possibility of approaching the Department of Conservation for some contribution was queried. .

The second part of possible future capital works could be raising the stopbanks over the full length of the scheme.

W. Moen pointed out that future capital works could be incorporated into the rates or they could be funded through a 10-year loan at a cost of approximately \$60,000 per year to cover principal and interest payments.

RATES 2004 / 2005

Discussion over the appropriate rate strike to be recommended to the Regional Council ensued.

Moved: ***“That the suggested rate strike figure remain as the status quo at \$10,000 + GST for the 2004 / 2005 financial year.”.***

W. Nolan / G. Dennehy - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: ***“That the committee for the 2004 / 2003 financial year be as follows:***

P. Northcroft

W. Nolan

J. Purcell

D. Bowater

K. Straight”

A. Nolan / J. Purcell – Carried

Moved: ***“That the Committee appoint a spokesperson as soon as possible and advise W. Moen of their decision.”***

A Nolan / J Purcell – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

D. Dennehy asked W. Moen to contact Blair Fitzharris at the Otago University to enquire about the Gaunt Creek Slip survey and bring back any significant findings to the October 2004 meeting.

Discussion ensued on the perceived “weak spot” on the stopbank adjacent to Richardson Road

W. Moen was to arrange an on-site meeting in the next month to look at this problem.

D. Horn agreed to speak to Peter Davis about re-establishing works and communicate back to ratepayers in October 2004.

He also spoke about the need for moving the Annual General Meetings to October rather than March/April.

A discussion on Department of Conservation ratable land ensued.

R. Squire explained that Department land is not ratable unless it leased for grazing and then the rates are paid by the lessee.

The Council was asked to investigate the reclassification of the scheme.

It was pointed out that the scheme was classified 25 years ago and many changes had occurred since then.

W. Moen agreed to bring down the existing classification for discussion when he meets with the committee at the Richardson Road inspection.

W. Moen gave an estimated a cost of \$5,000 to carry out a reclassification of the scheme.

It was generally agreed to put a motion forward at the October meeting if such a reclassification was deemed necessary.

Discussion took place on the identification of wetlands.

D. Horn advised that the West Coast Regional Council are attempting to get specific privately owned wetlands identified.

This was needed for resource consents on drainage.

Russell Squire presented a report from the Department of Conservation.

He reported that the Department were in the last year of a five-year program for spraying willows and would like support from the community to continue the scheme. It has cost the Department of Conservation \$8,000 - \$10,000 this year to cover 43 hectares of aerial work.

He advised that the Department of Conservation were limited to the type of sprays allowed for use on their estate.

Moved: “That the Rating District send a letter to Department of Conservation to support the current program for willow spraying.”

K. Straight / W. Nolan – Carried

T. McBride asked how the tender process for future contracts worked.

Wayne Moen advised him to send in the appropriate supporting documentation e.g. OSH plan, plant & equipment, relevant work experience, qualifications etc. to be considered for future contract works.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.54a.m.