

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WANGANUI RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE HARI HARI RESTROOMS ON 12 OCTOBER 2011, COMMENCING AT 9.34 AM.

PRESENT

M. Molloy, G. Robertson, A. Campbell, J. Stewart, R. Hodgkinson, B. Thomson, J. Arnold, K. Garland, B. McGrath, M. Aynsley, R. McKenzie, S. Davie

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
B. Chinn, (Councillor), D. Davidson (Councillor)
M. Meehan, W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

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 15 September 2010, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

A. Campbell / G. Robertson - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

J. Stewart asked about the raising of the stopbank near Ross Twidle / T. Denham properties. J. Stewart stated that he was told that this work could not go ahead because there was no consent in place for this. W. Moen advised that if a modification to what is in place is sought then a consent is required. J. Arnold asked how long would it take to get consent for works on an existing stopbank. W. Moen responded that this would take 2 –3 weeks if there were no objections and he feels that this work should be done through the rating district. M. Meehan confirmed if a stopbank is being taken beyond 10% of what it originally was then consent is required. W. Moen advised that it would make sense to include the entire stopbank in the consent as it would be valid for 35 years. B. Thomson asked if the consent fee is determined by the size of the job. W. Moen advised that the cost is determined by how much staff time the consent application takes. B. Thomson agrees with applying for one consent. M. Meehan explained the consenting process. M. Molloy stated that she would like the consent to be publicly notified. M. Meehan advised that that would be the consenting department's decision not the rating districts. M. Meehan advised that the rating district needs to decide on what they want to do prior to applying for consent. W. Moen stated that currently there is a consent in place to maintain the existing banks.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2011. He advised that there is a slight anomaly with the contractor's costs, which relates to the

change in GST he advised that the correct figure for contractor's costs is \$271,653. W. Moen reported that the opening balance was \$83,590.96 and the closing balance as at 30 June 2011 is \$115,689.36.

Moved: ***"That the financial report for the 2010 / 2011 year be adopted".***
J. Stewart / J. Arnold - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising relating to the financial report.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period: 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. He advised that a total \$271,653 worth of works were carried out during the reporting period with \$211,100 of this being for capital works and \$60,553 for maintenance works.

W. Moen advised that he carried out an inspection with the committee on the 14th of July and advised that \$69,358 worth of works were identified. He advised that J. Arnold is doing these works now. W. Moen advised that \$44,758 worth of these works are maintenance works and \$24,600 are capital works.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Works Report covering the 2010 / 2011 financial year be adopted.

2. That the 2011 / 2012 works proposals be approved.
A. Campbell / R. Hodgkinson - Carried

RATES 2012 / 2013

W. Moen advised that in view of the proposed works and the current rate strike of \$120,000 at the end of the 2012 / 2013 financial year there is likely to be a balance of \$96,000.00 in the rating district account.

RECOMMENDATION

"That the rate strike for the 2012 / 2013 financial Year is \$100,000 (GST Excl)."

R. Hodgkinson / J. Stewart - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Chinn reminded the meeting that this rating district has a rotation policy in place. It was suggested that the rotation policy would stay in place with the two on the top of the list each year standing down therefore Mr Arnold and Mr Stewart are due to stand down this year. Cr Chinn advised that they are eligible for re-election.

Moved: ***"That J. Arnold and J. Stewart are re-elected to the rating district committee:***

A. Campbell / R. Hodgkinson - Carried

Moved: *"That the following members, namely:*

J. Arnold

J. Stewart

A. Campbell

R. Hodgkinson

*G. Robertson be elected as the committee for the 2011/
2012 financial year."*

A. Campbell / R. Hodgkinson - Carried

Moved: *"That A. Campbell be re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2011
/ 2012 financial year."*

J. Stewart / R. McKenzie - Carried

Moved: *"That two of the committee members to stand down by rotation
next year will be A. Campbell and R. Hodgkinson".*

J. Stewart / R. McKenzie - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Campbell stated that there have been requests that the rating district classifications are looked at. W. Moen confirmed that this was an action point from last year's meeting and he supplied A. Campbell with a map showing the existing rating district classifications. A. Campbell stated that the committee sees no point in reclassifying the rating district, as there are no problems at the moment. B. Thomson stated that a resident has approached him from the Main Road who is concerned about the amount of rates they are paying for the river. B. Thomson stated that the concern is that the residents on the main road feel they are paying too much in rates and some residents do not want to be a part of the rating district. B. Thomson asked if it would be worth having a look at the classifications for these residents. M. Aynsley stated he agreed with B. Thomson and stated that for the size of their sections they do pay a lot of money, he stated that a lot of the Main Road residents are pensioners also. It was noted that two years ago rates for one resident for the rating district cost \$50 and now they have increased to \$190 for the year. M. Aynsley stated that Main Road residents are not getting any benefit from the rating district. W. Moen disagreed with this statement and stated that if the stopbank wasn't in place then the river could go through the town. He gave a history of the rating district's beginnings. Extensive discussion took place. W. Moen advised that NZTA's policy is wait until infrastructure is damaged and then repair it rather than pay out for prevention. W. Moen advised that to change things now the rating district would need to be reclassified and this would then mean if some people want to pay less then others would need to pay more. M. Meehan advised that there was a call for a reclassification of the Lower Waiho rating district and council engaged the services of an independent expert to do this. M. Meehan advised that the independent expert extended the rating district and made it bigger. He advised that this is the same process that this rating district would need to go through if they wanted a reclassification. M. Meehan advised that in the case of the Lower Waiho rating district some people were getting protection and they weren't paying into the rating district scheme. M. Molloy asked if it would be relatively simple to cut the contributions from those on the Main Road down. W. Moen advised that this would still be a reclassification and it would need to go through council to be approved. Discussion took place on boundaries for the town. Cr Chinn advised that the rate strike was \$120,000 and \$270,000 has been spent on protection works this year and the rate strike for 2012 / 2013 year is \$100,000 which is \$20,000 less than the previous year so this year rates will come down a bit. M. Molloy suggested that prior to the rate being set for next year, the financial effect on the township could be considered.

B. Thomson stated that all the meeting wants to do is to make it easier for those in the township to pay less rates. B. Thomson stated that town people might be happier to be 50% less than what they currently pay. M. Meehan advised that if the wish of the meeting is to progress this matter then council could do the work and take it through the process where people can make submissions and make a decision on the recommendation. K. Garland stated that the rating district is protecting its own land and assets they have also paid for capital works. He stated he would be happy just to go ahead and do their own works. M. Molloy stated that the affects of these works need to be considered as they do impact on others land. Cr Chinn asked if someone is prepared to move that council investigate the options for the township to reduce their rates.

Moved: *"That Council looks into options for the township of Harihari to reduce the rates for ratepayers in the township."*

A. Campbell / M. Aynsley - Carried

J. Stewart asked if consents are going to be applied for for both sides of the river. He stated that he was told to get two consents for the 200 metres of work on the Denham's side of the river. W. Moen stated that he would need to inspect this area to see how much work is required to ascertain whether or not a new consent is required. Once the inspection has been done, W. Moen will report back to the rating district committee on consent requirements and whether or not this will be capital works. J. Stewart asked if any consents in the scheme are due to expire. W. Moen agreed to check the expiry dates on the consents that are in place. Discussion took place on the height of the stopbank and the levels required in different areas. K. Garland feels that it shouldn't make any difference on the height of the stopbank. M. Meehan explained consenting processes and the 10% rule relating to flood protection. He advised that if flood protection gets wiped out then it is rebuilt but you cannot go beyond the 10% and double the size of a stopbank or groyne. He advised that 10% allows for a little bit more work to be done without going overboard but if a consent holder wants to go beyond the 10% threshold then they need to go through the consent process again. This enables others to have input on it and council can then assess the affects. M. Meehan stated that the spirit of the 10% is that 10% is added once and not 10% every few years as this could end up having affects on neighbours or properties downstream.

B. Thomson stated that he has no idea of the number of each and which spur is which. Cr Chinn advised that A. Campbell has a copy of the maps with the spur numbers on them, which he will provide to B. Thomson.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.21 a.m.

Action Points for follow up

- Apply for global consent for the raising of the stopbank.
- W. Moen - check expiry dates for consents that are already in place for rating district works.
- Investigate options for reclassification to reduce costs on township.