

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE WHATAROA COMMUNITY HALL
ON 30 OCTOBER 2018, COMMENCING AT 10.02 AM

PRESENT

D. Routhan, K. Kelly, F. Graham, C. Hassall, G. Styger, T. McBride, D. Friend

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
P. McDonnell, S. Challenger (Councillors)
R. Beal, B. Russ, J. Ellis, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

P. Kennedy, B. Graham

D. Friend / K. Kelly - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Challenger opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: ***"That the minutes of the Whataroa Rating District Meeting held on 20 October 2017, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

C. Hassall / K. Kelly - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

C. Hassall asked what is the rating district insured for. B. Russ advised that a requirement from Audit NZ is for rating district assets to be inspected after every flood event. The catastrophe fund was explained to the meeting. It was agreed that further information regarding insurance would be emailed out to the rating district.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report. He advised that the opening balance was \$124,423.49, expenses totaled \$1,357.75 and the closing balance was \$170,929.15.

WORKS REPORT

B. Russ spoke to the works report. He stated that no works were carried out during the 2017 / 2018 financial year.

B. Russ advised that he has put out a tender for the placement of around 1000 tonne of rock. This work should start within the next two weeks.

B. Russ advised that the rock on the Friend's property is suitable for rock protection works.

B. Russ advised as a result of a discussion with the Spokesperson \$42,770 worth of maintenance works were identified. B. Russ advised that he has allowed \$20,000 for unforeseen maintenance.

B. Russ answered questions relating to the topping up and repositioning of spurs. D. Routhan asked if the turnaround area could have some hard fill placed in it as he is concerned that the river could get in behind this area. It was agreed that B. Russ would check this area.

Agreed Level of Service

B. Russ advised that Audit NZ have requested that each rating district is informed of the levels of service and protection they receive from their assets. B. Russ advised that half of the Whataroa scheme is erosion protection and the rest is the stopbank. He stated that it is unknown what size flood the scheme could handle as cross section surveys have never been done. B. Russ offered to get a price for cross section surveys to be done. He advised that Council would pay half and rating district would need to pay the other half. B. Russ stated that the stopbank would be close to a 1 in 50 year flood return level.

Willow Tree Loss

J. Ellis addressed the meeting. He stated that willow trees are used as an erosion protection purposes in a lot of places around New Zealand. J. Ellis advised that since 2013 willow trees are being attacked by the large willow aphid and willows locally are now showing signs of infestation. J. Ellis advised that Hon Shane Jones, Regional Development Minister, has set up an initiative to plant one billion trees over the next 10 years. Government funding is available to communities via the Provincial Growth Fund. J. Ellis advised that willows can be a very useful secondary protection during a large flood. J. Ellis stated that he is unsure at this stage what type of trees would be available for planting. R. Beal advised that further information will be provided to communities via the Weedbusters newsletter. He advised that if there is interest from the rating district then they can be included in the application. It was agreed that the rating district would like to be included in an application to the tree fund.

RATES 2019 / 2020

Cr Challenger advised that with the proposed works and the rate strike of \$42,000 (G.S.T. Exclusive) the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2019 / 2020 financial year is likely to be \$170,000. B. Russ advised that the prudent reserve for the rating district is approximately \$200,000. Discussion took place on the affordability and also the costs of a large flood event. It was agreed that the rate strike would remain at \$42,000 and consideration can be given to cutting this back a little next year.

Moved: ***"That rate strike for the Whataroa rating district is \$42,000 Excl GST for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."***

D. Friend / G. Styger - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee. It was agreed that the status quo remains.

Moved: ***"That G. Styger, P. Carroll, K. Kelly, D. Bowater, T. McBride, D. Friend and D. Routhan be the committee for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."***

C. Hassall / D. Routhan – Carried

Moved: ***"That K. Kelly is elected as the Spokesperson for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."***

C. Hassall / D. Routhan - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

D. Routhan congratulated staff on the level of transparency. He stated it is good to be able to talk to staff and councillors on a one on one bases and not to be talked down to. Cr McDonnell advised the meeting that should they ever have any concerns staff and councillors are only a phone call away.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held next year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.38 a.m.

Action points for follow up

- Check turnaround area.
- Follow up on cross section survey work.
- Provide information to the rating district relating to the Catastrophe Fund and insurance cover.

Council Infrastructure Insurance Details

Information provided by R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager)

Council exited LAPP in 2011 following the Canterbury earthquakes, as it was going to be unaffordable to continue.

We then established a designated Catastrophe Fund, which has grown to \$1M.

As from 1/11/17 WCRC Infrastructure is covered under the AON Lloyds scheme. We are in a grouping of South Island Councils (Nelson, Tasman, Buller, Grey, Westland, WCRC, Queenstown Lakes, Environment Southland) with total programme cover of (now) \$300M.

WCRC carries cover of \$35M and the annual premium is paid for from interest earned on the \$1M Catastrophe Fund. The excess is \$250,000.

See details of actual cover below taken from the actual Policy wording: The infrastructure cover includes (quoting direct from Policy).

“Materials damage natural catastrophe insurance” including:

Earthquake, Natural landslip, Flood, Tsunami, Tornado, Windstorm, Volcanic eruption, Hydrothermal and geothermal activity, Subterranean Fire, And Business Interruption resulting from them.