

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.45 A.M.

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), P. Ewen, B. Chinn, D. Davidson, A. Robb, T. Archer, A. Birchfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), C. Pullen (Vector Programme Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) that the minutes of the Council Meeting 11 December 2007 be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran took his report as read. He spoke of some revised totals of rock in the Blackball and Kiwi Quarries this was picked up during an inspection in January.

Cr Davidson asked if a meeting is scheduled for the Wanganui Rating District. S. Moran confirmed this would take place once the access agreement has been signed.

Cr Robb spoke of the media interest regarding the Punakaiki sea wall. S. Moran stated the rating district was not prepared to pay more for higher quality rock. C. Ingle noted that other members of the rating district are very happy with the wall.

Moved (Ewen / Robb) that this report be received.

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed C. Pullen to his first Council meeting as Vector Programme Manager. C. Pullen spoke to his report. He drew attention to the completed operations and provided an overview of the two failures. The Cronadun area was re-worked but failed again. A re-work is proposed for July.

C. Ingle clarified that contractors are not paid until the treated area has passed all monitoring for the Taipo area. C. Pullen reported that an aerial operation is scheduled for this area in a couple of month's time.

C. Pullen advised that all other results are pleasing. Post mortem results from the Karamea area revealed that there is no sign of Tb in the 55 possums that tested.

C. Pullen reported that a new Vector Management Officer commenced employment last week.

Moved (Chinn / Davidson) that this report be received.

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORTS

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He reported that the significant under spending apparent in the Planning and Environmental area for the six month period is due mainly to being short one staff member. Also extra funding for monitoring in the Lake Brunner area was obtained from MfE. S. Moran advised that a fourth person would be employed in this area.

R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio was severely affected by market turbulence during November and December. The Chairman stated that this is still a good financial result.

R. Mallinson advised that Forsyth Barr would make their annual presentation after the March Council meeting.

Moved (Robb / Ewen) that this report be received.

Carried

4.3.1 ANTI FRAUD POLICY

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this policy is now a requirement from the Office of the Auditor General.

Moved (Archer / Ewen)

- 1. That the Anti Fraud Policy attached be adopted as Council Policy.*
- 2. Upon notification of a suspected fraudulent act the Investigation Leader shall notify the Chief Executive immediately, except where the fraud may involve the Chief Executive; and who in turn will notify the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.*

Carried

4.3.2 INDICATIVE REMUNERATION POOL FOR 2008 / 09

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He read an email for David Oughton, Chairman of the Remuneration Authority.

The following table sets out the effect of the increase in the pool on Councillor remuneration for 2008/09.

| | 2008/09 Pool |
|------------|--------------|
| Chair | \$ 61,950 |
| Deputy | \$ 30,975 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| Councillor | \$ 20,265 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 194,250 |

Moved (Chinn / Davidson) *That Council receive this report but hold the decision over for a month.*

Carried

4.3.3 POLICY ON USE OF COUNCIL CREDIT CARDS

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that it is a very simple and sensible policy, which provides plenty of protection for Council. This is another item that Audit New Zealand has asked Councils to adopt.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the proposed policy on the use of Council Credit Cards be adopted.*

Carried

4.3.4 COUNCIL CREDIT TERMS AND IMPOSITION OF LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He stated that Councillors requested that this matter be brought to the February meeting. Extensive discussion ensued with various examples provided. Cr Archer asked if the majority of late payments and penalties incurred are the result of non-payment of resource consents or other general reasons. Cr Archer asked if consideration has been given to paying for every consent before it is released. C. Dall confirmed that a final document is not released until payment is received. C. Dall confirmed that a consent can be acted upon once the appeal period has closed. Cr Birchfield stated that he would be voting against this as the system is not yet completely foolproof. The Chairman stated that if a genuine mistake were made interest would not be charged. R. Mallinson advised that if this policy is adopted then the Resource Consent Application form would need to be changed to make it clear to applicants that they would be charged a penalty for late payments. The Chairman asked each Councillor for their opinion on this matter. Cr's Birchfield and Chinn are against this policy. Cr Chinn stated that he would only want interest charged after any dispute has been settled.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

1. *That Council will implement a 10% late payment penalty interest charge on amounts not Paid within 30 days of the due date (the due date being defined as the 20th of the month following the date of the invoice).*
2. *That the Corporate Services Manager and the Chief Executive (acting jointly) may agree to waive the late payment penalty in justifiable circumstances.*
3. *That the resource consent application form be amended accordingly.*

Carried

Cr Birchfield against, Cr Chinn against

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He attended a meeting with the Auditor General prior to Christmas. A further meeting with Hon. Damien O'Connor was attended. The Chairman also attended this meeting where changes relating to the Animal Health Board were discussed.

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

6. CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

Cr Scarlett reported he also attended the meeting with the Auditor General and Hon. Damien O'Connor. The Chairman advised that last Friday he and C. Ingle met with Hon. Damien O'Connor, the Mayor – Tony Kokshoorn and various other people to discuss the port services. Both the Buller and Greymouth ports were discussed. He stated that the prognosis does not look great for both ports unless substantial funding can be obtained.

Moved (Scarlett / Ewen) *that this report be received.*

Carried

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date