

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 MARCH 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.20 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), A. Mahuika (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting 9 February 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran spoke to his report. He advised that a voting form has been sent out to members of the Inchbonnie Rating District to ascertain whether or not they wish to go ahead with the upgrade of the Inchbonnie Stopbank. This is due back on the 20th of March. Indications are that the rating district will be happy to proceed, work is expected to commence before the end of the financial year.

S. Moran reported 79% of the Mokihinui township community is in favour of the setting up of the proposed Mokihinui Rating District.

He advised that MWH have been contracted to carry out the project management work for the upgrade of the Greymouth Floodwall. A tender is out for the clearing of vegetation on Cobden Island, this closes on the 20th of March.

Taylor's Contracting have almost finished taking rock from the Camelback Quarry. They have the contract for the Arahura Bridge guide banks. S. Moran stated that Taylor's have been a very good contractor to deal with.

Cr Scarlett read out a copy of the letter he sent to Hon Bill English, Minister of Infrastructure seeking financial assistance with the upgrade of the Greymouth Floodwall. Cr Scarlett alerted the Minister to the fact that the West Coast did not receive any financial benefit from the February Government Infrastructure package. Cr Scarlett quoted one of the outcomes from the recent Job Summit was for government subsidies to increase Local Government

investment in flood protection. He feels that Greymouth community should not have to borrow to fund this scheme and that if there is an opportunity for funding then the West Coast should not be left out.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield)

1. *That the Council approves the formation of the Mokihinui Special Rating District.*
2. *That the report is received.*

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Pullen spoke to this report. He advised that five Tb infected possums have been discovered in the Marsden Block. The Kings Domain to Boddytown area is a hotspot for Tb infected possums. C. Pullen reported that 69% of the overall programme has been invoiced and paid for.

Cr Scarlett asked C. Pullen if there had been feedback from the public regarding the DVD sent out by the Animal Health Board relating to the use of 1080. C. Pullen stated there had been very little feedback at all but he has received feedback from schools and would be talking to some schools again next week.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He reminded Council that as agreed at the February meeting there would be no detailed financial report this month as he has been busy finalising the LTCCP document. The LTCCP audit process is due to start later in the month.

R. Mallinson advised that Forsyth Barr would be making their annual presentation at the May Council meeting.

R. Mallinson drew attention to the anticipated borrowing requirements for the raising of a loan for the Greymouth Floodwall upgrade (\$700,000), the Inchbonnie Rating District (\$400,000) and the Lower Waiho Rating District (\$1,000,000). This are all for infrastructure upgrades.

Cr Ewen stated that potentially all three of the projects could be applicable to the infrastructure upgrades outlined in Cr Scarlett's letter to Hon. Bill English.

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

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He drew attention to Hon. Rodney Hide's response to the letter sent to him in December of last year regarding the audit fees for the LTCCP. C. Ingle reported that this matter was further discussed at the recent LGNZ Zone meeting in Christchurch and at Friday's meeting of the Mayors and Chairs. C. Ingle advised Council to look ahead to the next triennium when this issue will come up again. He feels Council need to consider putting forward a remit to LGNZ suggesting this issue be looked at at the national level and to consider staggering these audits and make them less complex and costly. C. Ingle advised he and Cr Scarlett would follow this up at the next Zone 5 meeting.

C. Ingle spoke of the other meetings he has attended during the month including the Regional Affairs meeting and tour attended with Cr Davidson. He stated it was interesting to visit a region similar to ours and to see the challenges that Taranaki have dealt with.

C. Ingle reported that he is very happy with the LTCCP given to Audit NZ as he and R. Mallinson have put a lot of work into this.

C. Ingle advised that he has negotiated a four year building lease agreement with the Animal Health Board, and that he intends fixing the Council seal to the lease.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

Carried

6.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the Zone 5 meeting in Christchurch. The Chairman reported that he attended the Regional Transport Committee meeting. He stated that the three year transport programme has been a massive undertaking by staff and that staff had done very well. The Chairman spoke of the recent Mayors and Chairs meeting he attended. He noted that it was a very productive meeting.

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

Carried

Cr Davidson reported on the Regional Affairs Committee meeting and tour he and C. Ingle attended in Taranaki. Cr Davidson reported that the main issues discussed were the economic recovery and creating employment. Climate change, emissions trading and the new government were also covered. Cr Davidson also visited Port Taranaki; he spoke of the financial advantage of having a port that generates revenue.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date