

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.05 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),
T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

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 9 December 2008, 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 and took it as read.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the report be received.*

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in C. Pullen's absence and asked that the report be taken as read.

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

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report noting that it is Council's six monthly financial report. The total operating expenditure was \$4.679 million for the period. Total revenue amounted \$4.327 million. R. Mallinson reported that the investment loss for the period was \$565,000 with a loss in the Forsyth Barr portfolio of \$583,000. R. Mallinson stated that this is a continuation of the impact from the global economic downturn. He circulated a copy of the Forsyth Barr Quarterly Report to the 31 of December. R. Mallinson stated that Council's portfolio was a very conservative one and our losses would have been greater if it was a less conservative portfolio. Cr Robb stated that this is a

longterm investment portfolio and consideration needs to be given to the highs and lows of the market over the years.

R. Mallinson reported work is continuing on the finalising of the LTCCP document to be audit ready in March. He asked for Council approval for the next financial report to be the eight month report to the end of February which would be reported to the April Council meeting. There was no objection to this.

Cr Scarlett stated that this is a relatively good financial result. Cr Archer stated that he feels the strong diversification of our investment portfolio is now reaping the benefit of being a conservative portfolio.

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

Carried

4.3.1 AUDIT MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2008

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He stated that this report was circulated to Councillors in December and that it incorporates management comment.

Cr Archer stated he feels it is a good audit report and that the minor finding of the report not being adopted within the timeframe is of little consequence. He feels management's responses are quite appropriate.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the Audit Management Report be received.*

Carried

4.3.2 INDICATIVE REMUNERATION POOL FOR 2009 / 10

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He stated that the Remuneration Authority has advised Council of what the pool will be for 2009 / 2010.

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) *that Council agree to the proposed pool allocations for 2009 / 2010.*

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He stated that since the change of Government there has been a lot happening in particular with what Dr Nick Smith's plans are for a new Environmental Protection Agency for the future. C. Ingle advised that our stance would be to assist Dr Smith in order to facilitate good decisions to be made. C. Ingle reported that Dr Smith has put some changes up for legislative change within the first 100 days as planned prior to gaining office. It is hoped that these changes will make it quicker to get resource consents through.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the SOLGM Retreat in Blenheim at the end of January where Dr Smith gave a presentation.

C. Ingle also attended the CEO Forum in Wellington earlier this month. He will attend the Regional Affairs Committee meeting on the 17th and 18th of February and will be accompanied by Cr Davidson.

C. Ingle advised that he is attending the Zone 5 meeting at the end of the month with Cr Scarlett, this will be a useful opportunity to meet with personnel from the district councils.

C. Ingle reported that the LTCCP remains on track and within the timeline set with Audit New Zealand in March 2008. The Audit Team is expected here in March.

Cr Archer asked the Chief Executive if he could comment regarding the expected changes to the Ministry for the Environment and the move to the Environment Protection Agency. C. Ingle stated that Dr Smith sees MfE as a policy agency and that he sees the NES's and NPS's continuing. C. Ingle reported that Dr Smith may get the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment writing State of the Environment reports every five years and that Councils could be expected to fund a lot more collection of science information. C. Ingle stated that ERMA is being seen as a possible home for the Environmental Protection Agency. Dr Smith spoke of his surprise at the lack of technical knowledge at MfE. C. Ingle stated he would be ensuring that communication is kept open with the Minister and his advisors, and a careful eye is kept on progress.

Moved (Ewen / Davidson) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

Carried

ENVIROLINK UPDATE

C. Ingle provided an update to Council on Envirolink funding, he reminded Council that Envirolink is a FRST funded scheme set up by the Regional Council’s CEO’s Group to help out smaller regional councils to establish strong links with research agencies such as NIWA and Landcare Research. C. Ingle stated that to date he has attained over \$500,000 worth of grants for science advice over a four year period. C. Ingle advised that he has recently been asked to chair this group. Cr Archer asked if this would compromise his position in terms of applications for grants. C. Ingle confirmed that there would be no compromise to the Council continuing to be able to access funding.

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

Carried

Marine Protection Forum

C. Ingle tabled an email from the Department of Conservation requesting a meeting with representatives of Council and Staff to discuss the work that the Marine Protection Forum has been doing. Cr Scarlett suggested timing this meeting in with one of the Council meetings between now and May prior to public consultation taking place.

4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he has been liaising with MP Chris Auchinvole regarding the coal levy. He is hopeful of getting a meeting with Hon Gerry Brownlee and Hon Bill English to progress this matter.

The Chairman attended the final meeting for the deliberations for the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds with the decision being released.

The Chairman reported that he has fielded quite a lot of questions relating to 1080 during the reporting period, along with various other matters of concern to constituents.

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

Carried

Cr Davidson suggested a vote of confidence in favour of our Chairman, Cr Scarlett, in view of the recent comments in the local newspapers. Cr Davidson stated that he has found Cr Scarlett’s leadership to be very positive and stated he has moved this Council ahead and that his leadership is beyond reproach. Cr Archer stated that he didn’t know anything about this matter, as he had no seen the comments in the Greymouth newspaper. Cr Scarlett thanked Cr Davidson for his comments.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.29 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date