

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 JUNE 2010, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.56 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no presentation.

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cr Chinn drew attention to the comment in the minutes regarding the use of RPR. He advised that it is his neighbour who has used RPP for a number of years but not himself.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 11 May 2010, be confirmed as correct with the appropriate amendments above made.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3.1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 31 MAY 2010**

**Moved** (Birchfield / Davidson) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 31 May 2010, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS**

S. Moran spoke to his report and took it as read.

C. Ingle advised that following today's meeting it has been suggested that he and S. Moran take Councillors on a tour of the new works of the Greymouth Floodwall. He stated that S. Moran would be available to answer questions from Councillors regarding the construction of the floodwall during the tour.

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

*Carried*

## 5.1 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that trends are consistent with what has previously been reported. He reported that total expenditure during the reporting period amounted to just over \$6M and total revenue was \$7.3M before expenditure on the Greymouth Floodwall upgrade which to the end of April totaled just under \$1.9M. R. Mallinson advised that fairly substantial amounts of loan money have been drawn down during the month for the Greymouth Floodwall upgrade with more being drawn down on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio return has eased back as expected and he is expecting further easing back during May and June due to the current turbulence in international equity markets. R. Mallinson advised that there have been some fairly substantial budget variances in a number of areas to the end of April. R. Mallinson reported that accrued prosecution costs are now matched by amounts received from fines whereas previously those costs had been carried before the receipt of fine income. Cr Archer asked R. Mallinson if the VCS Business Unit income versus expenditure and the under representation of the budgeted figures are based on timing issues. R. Mallinson confirmed this is correct as the main activity in the aerial area occurs in May, June and July. Cr Scarlett asked if it is normal practice to treat the upgrade of the Greymouth Floodwall as an operational expense. R. Mallinson responded that this is an unusual situation as the floodwall is not this council's asset therefore any money spent on it is classed as operating expenditure and not capital expenditure. P. Ewen asked R. Mallinson why planning processes are only 40% of actual budget. R. Mallinson advised that this figure is related to the transport programme, and is dependant on total expenditure as to the amount we claim as subsidies and the total size of the programme spend is a lot less than budgeted. S. Moran added that a turnover in staff has also resulted in under spending in this area.

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

*Carried*

### 5.1.1 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE 2010 /11 ANNUAL PLAN

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that the hearing for the Annual Plan was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. He advised that the recommendations listed result from the hearing and subsequent staff advice at the workshop following the hearing.

Cr Scarlett invited comments from Councillors.

Cr Ewen stated that all ratepayers could save themselves 2.5% of the GST increase if they pay their rates prior to the increase in GST. R. Mallinson advised that ratepayers would be informed of this saving via the rates newsletter as long as they pay their rates in full by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

1. Submitter no. 1 (Federated Farmers) made several points but requested no specific changes to the Annual Plan.

Staff will respond to the submitter relating to the discharges to land plan, which is to be amended later this year as part of the Regional Plan merger process.

*Recommended Decision:* Note submission. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

2. Submitter no. 2 (Mr Suchanski) asked Council to change the current system of rating the TB special rate from capital value to land value.

Staff will respond to the submitter explaining the basis of the funding for TB strategy work, via the Biosecurity Act funding tests, and also note that many other larger Regional Councils use the same rating system.

*Recommended Decision:* Reject submission. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

3. Submitter no. 3 (Adie Leng) requested \$3,000 contribution to Enviroschools.

*Recommended Decision:* Reject submission. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

4. Submitter 4 and 5 (TB Free committee and Historic Places Trust) supported the Plan

*Recommended Decision:* Accept submissions. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

5. Submitter 6 (Paul Elwell Sutton) submitted on ethical investments.

Staff will respond to the points the submitter has made.

*Recommended Decision:* Note submission. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

6. Submitter 7 (Active West Coast) raised points relating to health impact assessment and walking and cycling.

Staff will respond to the submitter addressing the points made.

*Recommended Decision:* Note submission. No amendment to the Annual Plan.

7. Submitter 8 and 9 are staff submissions relating to GST changes, and providing floodwall maintenance funding for the Greymouth Floodwalls.

These matters were discussed during the workshop.

*Recommended Decision:* Accept submissions and amend Annual Plan accordingly.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*That the seven recommendations above be accepted, and that the Draft Annual Plan for 2010 / 11 be confirmed.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report noting the meetings that he attended during the reporting period. C. Ingle drew attention to the aquaculture changes that were advised at the Regional Affairs Committee meeting, which he and Cr Scarlett attended. He advised that Minister Phil Heatley spoke at this meeting advising that Government is looking at being able to free up some of the regulatory process put in place by the previous government, which has stifled the industry. C. Ingle advised that we would be keeping an eye on this, as the regulatory process that is in place at the moment is much more complex than any other similar RMA process for any other land based or water based activities. C. Ingle stated that there is justification in making the changes in order to free this up and the government sees this as a way of helping the economy to move forward. C. Ingle advised that this region would probably not be affected but Northland, Bay of Plenty and the Marlborough Sounds are affected with new direction in this industry such as fin fish, which have different requirements than mussels.

C. Ingle reported that the Chairs of Regional Councils have approved a trial period for the new information portal which will be a new website covering all regional councils and informing the public of the sort of functions that regional councils deliver. C. Ingle advised that Cr Scarlett was asked to respond to Horizons Regional Council who is leading this project, if the council as a whole supports this project. Cr Scarlett added that he feels this is a good move to put technical information onto websites in a comprehensive and coherent manner. He stated that this council is probably one of the leaders in water management in New Zealand has a lot of information to offer lay people and non-technical people. Cr Scarlett stated that he supports this initiative, he noted that there is no cost involved to us and he is keen to see how this project goes and how the information gets back to the general public.

**Moved** (Chinn / Davidson) *that this report be received and that the Council supports in principle the Regional Councils Information Portal Project.*

*Carried*

Cr Chinn asked for further information on the meeting C. Ingle attended at Grey District Council regarding SNA's and Regional Plan Wetlands. C. Ingle advised that he would have more to report on this matter shortly as he is about to leave for Christchurch to attend the Environment Court case on wetlands. Cr Birchfield asked if DoC has completed the mapping process for wetlands. C. Ingle responded that they are about a third of the way through. Cr Scarlett advised that he has written to Minister Heatley suggesting that the aquaculture changes cater for the West Coast as we have a different marine environment. He would like to see the West Coast included in case there is technology that allows marine farmers to come here, as this would be a big boost economically for this region.

## **7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)**

The Chairman reported that he attended the recent RAC Biosecurity meeting. He advised that the TB National Pest Strategy was discussed at this meeting with Mr Chris Bradley, MAF Biosecurity Manager of Policy speaking. Mr Bradley advised that the West Coast is the only area that has held out for a Board of Inquiry in terms of AHB. Cr Scarlett advised that he has received a letter back from Mr John Dalzell, Chair of the AHB. Cr Scarlett advised that if a concession were to be made then we would consider withdrawing. Cr Scarlett reported that there is a proposal of having an on farm database with all landowners over a certain area so that in a serious outbreak the government or MaF can take action in an efficient way. Cr Scarlett advised that tight legislation would be required to assure farmers that privacy is maintained with regard to tax or financial issues.

Cr Scarlett attended the Environmental Defence Society Conference in Auckland. He stated this was a good conference and advised that this society balances economic outlook with environmental considerations. Cr Scarlett reported that the Prime Minister and Hon Nick Smith and various scientists spoke at this conference.

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

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date