

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 MAY 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.24 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

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

There were no apologies

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

There was no public forum.

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

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 April 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that there has been emergency repair work carried out in the Punakaiki rating district as a result of damage sustained during a period of high seas. M. Meehan reported that the works were carried out in quite a tight timeframe and the community is happy with the job that has been done. He advised that he and C. Ingle inspected this work yesterday; he stated that this is a very dynamic area and it is important that a careful eye is kept on the seawall.

M. Meehan reported that he and Crs Robb, Birchfield and Cummings met with the Coal Creek rating district committee on site on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April to discuss raising the river wall in this area. M. Meehan reported that the final decision was to raise the current wall by 1.5m. He advised that tenders would be invited for this work shortly. M. Meehan advised that the rating district requested that investigations be done to see what is happening upstream of the proposed works.

M. Meehan reported that work has been steady in the council quarries with Mr John Ellis assisting with quarry management plans. M. Meehan reported that survey work has been undertaken in Kiwi Quarry to investigate how to safely remove rock from the northwest section of the quarry. He advised that the closing date for tenders for the quarry contract is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and tenders are being evaluated at the moment. M. Meehan reported that the Wanganui quarry has been sold to Ferguson Bros Ltd.

M. Meehan circulated a copy of the report done by Mr Bob Hall on the Waiho River to each Councillor.

Cr Davidson asked M. Meehan if council has any further responsibility for the Wanganui quarry now that it has been sold. M. Meehan responded that responsibility and rehabilitation goes on to the purchaser and there is no liability to council now that it has been sold. Cr Chinn asked if the money from the sale of the quarry goes to the Wanganui rating district as they paid for the access road and the bridge into the

quarry. M. Meehan advised that he will follow up to see what money the rating district is entitled to but he advised that the council owned this quarry, though the rating district had paid for the access works. Cr Archer asked what is the purpose of the Waiho River report and where is this reporting going to now. M. Meehan responded the report will be available to residents of Franz Josef and will also be shared with DoC, NZTA and Westland District Council. M. Meehan advised that Mr Hall highlighted an overflow corridor upstream of the bridge that could affect the Franz Josef rating district and therefore follow up work by Council on behalf of the Franz Josef rating district is required. M. Meehan advised that there are also potential implications that the river could do what Mr Hall says in his report and heads towards the Tartare River and then through the Waiho loop and this could impact on the Lower Waiho rating district and this rating district has very little funds available to do any work to mitigate these problems. Other landowners outside the rating district could also be affected. M. Meehan advised that there are some concerns around infrastructure that Westland District Council has in this area and also DoC and NZTA's infrastructure. M. Meehan stated that there are options in the report that the rating district has discussed in the past, such as cleaning out the river channel but the conclusion is that this is too costly. There is still a lot of sediment and gravel being mobilised in this river. C. Ingle commented that this report goes a lot further than just our rating districts and it shows that the river is clearly building up and aggrading and is going to go off it perched bed on one side or the other at some stage. C. Ingle commented that Mr Hall commented in his report and during a presentation at council that he feels it is likely that the Waiho River will move towards the north in the direction of the Tartare River. C. Ingle stated that this is good information for the community to have. Cr Chinn stated that the cover of the report illustrates exactly what the river is doing, and how it is taking off through farmland and creating new guts. He stated that at the cover shows an island in the middle of the river but the river is changing all the time. Cr Archer asked if the \$76,500 reported for works in the Punakaiki rating district in the April report is a total figure. M. Meehan confirmed that this amount is the total figure for emergency works.

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

*Carried*

#### **4.1 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that it is for nine months ended 31 March 2012. R. Mallinson reported that there is a surplus of \$428,000 and there has also been a substantial turnaround in the investment returns during March with improvements of over \$200,000 during the month. R. Mallinson advised that the expenditure on the Meridian consent appeal, until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March is just under \$60,000 which includes legal costs and expert Planner evidence along with staff time. R. Mallinson reported that there are positive budget variances of just under \$150,000 in the general rate funded activities. Cr Birchfield commented that the return from Westpac is good considering the amount of money invested. R. Mallinson agreed and stated that a date needs to be set for the meeting with potential fund managers. R. Mallinson is suggesting the presentations be taken from Forsyth Barr, Westpac and the Bank of New Zealand. Cr Davidson stated that council needs to decide what direction it wants to take. Cr Scarlett stated that the three fund managers need to be listened to first and then a decision can be made and they need to convince council that their investment firms are the best. Cr Scarlett stated that there is a balance between making money and prudent investment. Cr Scarlett feels that given what is happening in Europe this visit will be quite timely. It was noted that June is a busy month for council with hearings and therefore it was agreed that the Fund Managers presentation to council would be held on Thursday 12 July at 10.30 a.m.

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

*Carried*

#### **6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report and spoke of recent meetings he has attended including the South Island Strategic Alliance (SISA) Shared Services Core Group meeting in Christchurch on 12 April. C. Ingle reported that these meetings are about sharing services and efficiencies and he is involved in the IT cluster group for this. He advised that Local Government on line is already doing work in this area and that the SISA IT subgroup are feeding into the Local Government online project.

C. Ingle reported that he visited Greater Wellington Regional Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April to discuss the Warm Greater Wellington funding scheme, which is a parallel of what this council is promoting in its LTP. C. Ingle reported that the CEO's Forum was on the same day and CEEF the following day. He stated that these are both very interesting meetings and a good way of catching up on what is going on around the country with senior Government officials. C. Ingle reported that he hosted the West Coast Mayors and Chair Forum on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. C. Ingle advised that he chaired the Civil Defence Co-ordinating Executive Group meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. He stated this was a very productive meeting with the evaluation of how well we are doing with Civil Defence by a representative from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. The evaluation revealed that as a region the West Coast is doing quite well and was ranked 6 / 16, which is just outside the top third.

C. Ingle advised that the Warm West Coast Programme is a new project for council and he spoke with staff at Greater Wellington Regional Council who administer this programme. He advised that Wellington has seen significant growth this year compared with the previous year, this programme has only been running for two years in Wellington. C. Ingle advised that \$3M was spent in the first year and \$6M in the second year. C. Ingle stated that we would need to wait and see what sort of demand the programme will attract here but he and the Corporate Services Manager are ready in case the demand here does ramp up. C. Ingle advised that EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) are offering an additional grant for people within a non-complying Airshed, like Reefton, so that they can get extra money to go towards replacing their multi fuel burner or open fire with a compliant wood burner or a heat pump. This would mean the people in Reefton would borrow from council and council would recover this cost through individual's rates. C. Ingle advised that he would be writing a letter to each ratepayer in Reefton to offer this service but he will be waiting until after the Long Term Plan hearing to ensure that the proposal stays as it is, as it may change through this process. Cr Birchfield stated that compliant wood burners do not have a wetback and this would be a backward move for some households. Cr Birchfield is concerned that if there are power cuts then those with heat pumps may not have hot water. Cr Archer stated that there are compliant wood burners that do have wet backs. C. Ingle advised that in Otago their rules allow people to have their old non-compliant burner in place, in case of emergencies, and they do not require the decommissioning of non-compliant burners (however they are not allowed to use the burner except in a power outage). C. Ingle stated that EECA's rules state that non-compliant burners must be decommissioned so when the time comes for this council's Air Plan to be reviewed the rules will need to be considered. C. Ingle stated that the last thing this council wants is to be making people live in a cold house, as this is not the intention. Cr Scarlett stated that EECA might need to modify their policy as if there was a serious power outage people could be without power for quite a few days. Cr Birchfield agreed with Cr Scarlett and stated that following the Inangahua earthquake in 1968, Westport was without power for quite a few weeks. Cr Scarlett asked if there are any coal burners that are compliant. C. Ingle responded that there are not any coal or multi fuel burners that meet the MfE emission standard.

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

*Carried*

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

The Chairman reported that he attended the launch of the new website for Freshwater New Zealand. He stated that this website is very impressive as it shows all regional councils and their water bodies and shows a lot of detail for both technical people and more general information for lay people. Cr Scarlett advised that Ministers Carter and Adams were at this launch and Minister Carter advised that government is very keen to utilise water into storage so that it can be irrigated so that economic activity can be increased in the farming world. He stated it is about taking water at high times and at low times, being able to maintain flows. Cr Scarlett reported that he attended a meeting the following day and Minister Carter also spoke at this meeting. Cr Scarlett stated that the Minister said that government is looking at economic activity that relates to jobs and they are taking a very practical approach. Cr Scarlett stated that Minister Carter feels that the West Coast Regional Council is doing very well with how we are performing economically. Cr Scarlett advised that the new website is [www.landandwater.co.nz](http://www.landandwater.co.nz).

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

*Carried*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Archer spoke of a matter that had come up at the Kongahu rating district meeting. He stated that the question raised was whether or not special rating district's monies could be spend on new capital works as opposed to maintenance of the existing scheme. Cr Archer stated that there was discussion on original constitution documents as in some cases it says money raised for rating districts is only for maintenance. Cr Archer stated that in his view the constitution of a rating district does not bind or constrain the council in making its decisions on protection of communities and especially the setting of rates. Cr Archer asked if these same matters have come up in other rating district meetings. Cr Archer noted that rating districts do not have constitution documents anymore as they now each have an Asset Management Plan. Cr Robb stated that nothing like this come up at the recent Coal Creek rating district meeting. C. Ingle clarified that the issue that was raised at Kongahu was from only one member of the rating district who was opposed to some new work going on because it could affect his land in terms of causing flooding. C. Ingle advised that there was a clear majority at the meeting with everyone being in favour of doing the new works but this one person could see that it was not going to be good for him so in the end he abstained from voting. Cr Scarlett stated that the usual way of doing new work is that whoever's property the work required is on, pays for the work and after two years this work is included in the rating district. C. Ingle agreed with this and stated that this system works well in Karamea and the Wanganui rating district, where it is erosion of a riverbank. Extensive discussion took place and various regional examples of how rating districts work was spoken about. Cr Scarlett stated that the Kongahu example is a very isolated case and it is most unusual. R. Mallinson advised that rating district constitutions were developed in the late 80's, early 90's and they no longer fit with the Local Government Act 2002 but Council certainly does want to take note of what communities want. C. Ingle advised that if a community is quite clear and there is a clear majority that they want to do some capital works and they want to pay for it then it would be wrong to let them be constrained by a historic document.

The meeting closed at 12.11 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date