

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.48 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, S. Challenger,
N. Clementson

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams
(Consents and Compliance 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 / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 14 October 2014,
be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that the annual round of rating district meetings will start this week. He noted that Councillors have now received the reports for the rating district meetings. M. Meehan offered to discuss any issues or concerns that Councillors might have in their constituencies prior to the annual meetings.

M. Meehan reported there have been a number of enquiries that the Councillors from Westland have been taking regarding the situation with the Waiho River. M. Meehan stated that the river has cut in quite hard on the north side and is now affecting the road. M. Meehan stated that the area of concern is downstream of the rating district works in Franz Josef. He advised that discussions have been held with Electronet, NZTA, Westland District Council and Scenic Circle Hotel about doing some emergency works on their behalf. Following a minor flood event which exacerbated the erosion affecting the highway, NZTA have now done some emergency works and have built a gravel stopbank on the north side of the bank. M. Meehan stated that all the parties are working well together and he is hopeful of a good solution. He advised that this matter has been placed on the agenda for the Franz Josef rating district meeting.

M. Meehan advised that a request has been received from ratepayers at Neil's Beach. They are seeking advice on an erosion problem and as most of the property owners were on site for the Whitebaiting season, they requested that Council's River Engineer visit them to

discuss their concerns. M. Meehan suggested that a short workshop be held after today's meeting to discuss the possibility of a rating district in this area.

M. Meehan reported that the first meeting of the Buller River Flood Working Group was held on the 13th of October. He stated that Crs, Clementson, Archer and Robb were in attendance. M. Meehan stated this was a good meeting with good input from the locals and the Buller District Mayor, Cr Sharon Roche and staff from both councils. M. Gardner from River Edge Consulting provided a presentation to the meeting. M. Meehan advised that there are two streams of work, the civil defence response and potential engineering solutions, along with district planning work which Buller District Council seems to have in hand. M. Meehan advised that the next meeting will be held on the 24th of this month when options will have been looked at and there will be further input and discussion on where to from there.

M. Meehan reported that there are good stockpiles of rock in the Council quarries at the moment although there has not been much demand for rock lately as there have not been any major floods.

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in R. Mallinson's absence and advised that this report is for the first three months of the financial year up until the end of September. C. Ingle commented that the surplus for the three months is just over \$100,000 and the Investment Portfolio has pulled in \$300,000 for these three months. Cr Birchfield commented on VCS's excellent surplus last year, with a budgeted surplus of \$500,000 but has come out at over \$900,000 surplus for last year.

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

Carried

4.3 DRAFT SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy is one of the first new requirements of the Local Government Act that this council will be rolling out with the Long Term Plan. C. Ingle advised that Council has always had a Significance Policy in the last LTP's but this policy is now recast as a Significance and Engagement Policy which changes the focus a little bit and broadens it out to be about how Council consults with its community as well as what matters might meet the significance test. C. Ingle stated that the new version of this policy is more of a broad judgment of what might be important to the community. C. Ingle stated that in development of this policy he looked at the policies developed by other councils. He also considered the professional advice from SOLGM and what council already has in place. C. Ingle drew attention to the last section of the policy regarding public consultation where the wording of the Act says that the local authority must consult on this document unless council considers on reasonable grounds that there is sufficient information about community interests and preferences to enable the purpose of the policy to be achieved. C. Ingle feels that this council does have sufficient information to waive the consultation requirement due to the consultation done recently on the RPS and the strong linkages between the elected members and their constituent community members. C. Ingle stated that some councils are consulting and some aren't. Cr Archer stated he is supportive of the policy but he feels it would be beneficial to Councillors in the future if recommendations are assessed in terms of their significance in terms of this policy. Cr Archer stated that this would then give Councillors a steer in knowing that significance has been considered. Cr McDonnell drew attention to the list of strategic assets included in this report and asked C. Ingle if there are any other assets that Council deems as strategic such as the council building or other property that council owns. It was agreed that this policy would be adopted as is and then review the strategic asset page when it goes into the LTP.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

1. That the Council adopts the attached draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

2. *For future reports and recommendations made by Council Management to Council, that Managers evaluate and report whether recommended actions meet the significance test.*
3. *That Council Management considers whether or not there are any additional strategic assets that could be included in schedule one of the policy.*

Carried

4.4 RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SUB COMMITTEES

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that this paper was requested by Council at last month's meeting. C. Ingle stated that this matter has been the subject of quite a lot of discussion around the sector particularly in response to issues that arose in Kaipara District Council and more recently in Dunedin City Council.

C. Ingle stated that this Council does not have a formal process to manage business risks or maintain a risk register, as they are dealt with as they arrive on an ad hoc basis. C. Ingle advised that this has been looked at before and Audit NZ request that it be looked at again. The last time this was looked at it was agreed that risks would be managed within the normal council meeting structure rather than have a separate committee that would cost more and take up more time. The Chairman stated that the advice from the Auditor General is that if a risk committee is established it needs to be a totally separate group of people with external expertise. The Chairman stated that there would be a reasonable amount of cost involved and the size and amount of risk for this council would need to be considered. Cr Birchfield stated that Councillors are paid to run the council, and why would council need to pay someone else to carry out this function. Cr Birchfield feels that Councillors should do the job that they are paid to do. Cr Archer stated that Cr Birchfield makes a valid point as council pays Audit NZ already. Cr Archer feels this is a duplication as Council is already paying money to an organisation to audit all of council's activities. Cr Archer stated that it would be good to meet with the Auditor to discuss this further and to ascertain what the perceived risks might be. It was agreed that this would be arranged. Cr Ewen stated that he agrees with Cr Archer. Cr Ewen feels that the recommendation that Audit NZ has come up with is a reaction to the Kaipara and Dunedin Council situations and he does not feel it is necessary for a small council like us. He feels this may shed a little bit more insight into this matter. Extensive discussion ensued. The Chairman stated that there may need to be some slight tweaking of what council already has in place. He feels that it will be good to have a discussion with the Auditor when Council has its usual annual meeting with him. The Chairman stated that our council is small and our major risks are well covered by what we already have in place.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *Councillors note the intention of the management team to develop a Risk Management Register for West Coast Regional Council.*
2. *That Council engages in additional discussion with the Audit Director to ascertain what level of risks Council faces and to ensure there is no duplication of activities.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cr Robb spoke to his report and advised that he attended the Regional Transport Committee meeting on the 21st of October. He stated that this is a work in progress.

Cr Robb reported that he and C. Ingle attended the Zone 5 and 6 meeting in Christchurch on the 23rd and 24th of October. LGNZ President, Lawrence Yule advised at this meeting that he and the Chief Executive, Malcolm Alexander will be visiting all councils over the coming months. Cr Robb advised that the purpose of the visit is to see where councils are at with reputation and helping to get councils up to speed with performance. Cr Robb reported that LGNZ are pleased with Hon. Paula Bennett's senior position in Government in view of her being the Local Government Minister.

Cr Clementson stated that he feels it would be beneficial to ensure the 1080 delegation includes all poisons that are manufactured by PCR, in case PCR develop other products later on down the line. Cr Archer stated that Council's decision to step away from the decision

making process with regard to 1080 decision making is the right one as where there are perceptions of conflict, then this is the right and proper way to go.

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council delegates all 1080 decision-making, or that relating to any other PCR Products, to an external, qualified expert, and asks the CEO to modify Council's delegations manual to reflect this decision.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle reported that his report covers the meetings he attended during the report period, some of which have already been covered in the Chairman's report.

C. Ingle advised that the SOLGM Planning and Accountability Working Party meeting held in Wellington on Friday was also attended by Bruce Robertson from Audit NZ. Mr Robertson spoke about LTP processes and what Audit NZ will be looking for in the LTP's. C. Ingle stated that this year, Audit NZ is looking at the consultation document which is something that nobody has prepared before. C. Ingle stated that Audit NZ is still concerned about having the "right debate" with communities and seeing what the priorities are for communities and whether or not it is being properly expressed in the consultation document. C. Ingle stated this was a very useful discussion to be a part of.

C. Ingle stated that the Chief Executive's Environmental Forum which he attended last week in Wellington was very good. Government has a fresh perspective on matters and are very keen to get legislative changes made within the next year or two. C. Ingle advised that one of the four top priorities for them is RMA reform. Government is focused on making the rules more simple and easy for people to navigate their way through. Hon Paula Bennett is personally taking a high level interest in this area.

C. Ingle advised that Audit NZ do not think the Plans should be more onerous than in previous years as their audit will be focused on the consultation document which should be between 10 and 50 pages long. C. Ingle expects this council's consultation document to be at the narrow end of this. C. Ingle drew attention to the attachment to his report which outlines the legislative requirements for the LTP. He suggested Councillors discuss the LTP direction in the workshop at the end of today's meeting and discuss the high level strategic direction for the next ten years.

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer stated that Transfund has reduced the roading subsidy again, down to 51%. Cr Archer said that he cannot believe that LGNZ is accepting such a massive reduction in the funding subsidy. C. Ingle stated that the allocation of funding between the larger cities, particularly Auckland, and the rest of New Zealand, especially the smaller councils, means that if the allocation of funding was at 52 or 53% then that would mean Auckland would be getting more. He stated that this is why the funding was pulled back. He understands there is more money to give to the smaller councils but these decisions have not yet been made. C. Ingle stated that 51% is just a base level, but there will be extras coming on top of this. Cr Archer stated that communities will not be able to afford to maintain roading and he is concerned about reduced subsidies.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date