

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18 MARCH 2014, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.35 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), J. Adams (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 / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 11 February 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 and advised that two lots of work were completed in the Wanganui rating district during the month.

M. Meehan reported that a site visit was made with Buller District Council staff to walk over an area that has been highlighted for potential flood protection around Westport. He stated that a concept plan is being worked through that will be completed by July. M. Meehan advised that council has had survey work done and has looked at where potential stop banks could be put in place using existing high ground in places. M. Meehan stated that there will need to be a considerable amount of community and stakeholder consultation done for this potential work as a rating district for Westport would be needed. Cr Clementson stated that he has been asked numerous times what is council doing about the Buller River. He stated it is good to see this being progressed. M. Meehan stated that he received similar feedback from residents when he inspected the Buller River recently. Cr Robb asked Crs Clementson and Archer if they felt there was now an appetite for this. Cr Archer agreed with and stated that the Buller District Council is almost an entirely new council. Cr Clementson also agreed with this. Cr Birchfield stated that a plan is needed before any consultation with anyone is started.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that a further financial report was circulated via email. Hard copies were circulated at today's meeting. M. Mallinson reported that the seven month financial report shows a surplus of just under \$472,000. M. Mallinson drew attention to page 2 of his report and advised that \$500,000 of capital costs relate to Camelback Quarry. M. Mallinson reported that the Investment Portfolio had an excellent month during February with total gains year to date of \$648,000. M. Mallinson reported that \$50,000 has been deposited into the Catastrophe Fund and this will happen each year until council is comfortable with the amount in this fund. R. Mallinson is requesting that Council's Multi Option Credit Line is increased from \$7.5M to \$8.5M as discussed at the council workshop following the February meeting. R. Mallinson advised that this will give Council room to respond to other demands such as the financing of work that may be carried out at Westport.

Cr Clementson asked how much is Council looking at as a comfortable figure for the Catastrophe Fund? R. Mallinson advised that this fund is sitting at about \$750,000 and Council would like to build this up to \$1.5M which will take a number of years. R. Mallinson advised that around \$50,000 was being put into the LAPP Fund each year but this fund was broken following the two Christchurch earthquakes. R. Mallinson advised that the Westpac Fund Managers will be making their annual presentation at the April meeting.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council agrees to an increase in the facilities with Westpac to \$8,500,000 as follows:*
 - *MOCL facilities \$7,500,000*
 - *Other facilities \$1,000,000*

Carried

4.2.1 WARM WEST COAST SCHEME

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that the Warm West Coast Scheme was discussed at the Councillor workshop following the February Council meeting. R. Mallinson reported that EECA has now brought in a more targeted aspect to their subsidies which are now only available to low income homeowners with health issues. R. Mallinson advised that Council changed its policy at the July 2013 meeting to continue to be involved with the scheme even though there was not an EECA grant in place. R. Mallinson stated that Council has no control over its debt levels if the scheme continues. He advised that Council will soon have a loan book in excess of 300 properties very soon. R. Mallinson 1 July 2014 as a date to cease loans outside Reefton, to enable current service provider contractors time to complete current projects. Cr Archer stated that the reason for retaining the Reefton Airshed in the scheme is so that ratepayers can fund whatever the solution for the Reefton air quality issues might be.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That the scheme be scaled back so that after 1 July 2014, only property owners in the Reefton Airshed can borrow under the voluntary targeted rate scheme.

Carried

4.2.2 HEADS OF AGREEMENT – CIVIL DEFENCE SHARED SERVICE

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that this is the new direction that the Mayors and Chairs want to go in with civil defence. The main change is to coordinate the efforts of the district councils with the region and for the region to increase its resourcing in terms of having a fulltime manager position and the secondment of the part timers in the district councils to the central position. C. Ingle advised that Buller District Council has endorsed the agreement at their recent meeting. C. Ingle stated that the financial implications for this

council will be discussed at the budget workshop following today's meeting. C. Ingle advised that the two other district councils are yet to endorse the agreement and once this agreement is signed it will replace the earlier constitution agreement which was signed back in 2002. Cr Archer stated that this is an excellent outcome and it can do nothing but better the region as a whole. Cr Archer stated that the regional council and each of the district councils will be singing from the same song sheet and this is a very good, unified document. C. Ingle clarified the delegations for spending should there be a civil defence emergency.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council endorse the attached Heads of Agreement and authorise the Chairman and CEO to sign and seal the document once we have approval of the other three Councils. This agreement replaces the earlier Constituting Agreement attached as Appendix D.*
3. *That any minor amendments to the document that may be requested by any one of the other Councils, be accepted at the discretion of the Chairman and CEO.*

6.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that the main point of discussion at the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group's meeting was around the freshwater standards and what their goals and aims are. The Chairman advised that the Group's long term aim is to have every water body in New Zealand to be swimmable. He advised they understand that they are part of the communities that have to work on this also. He felt that Sir Mark Solomon is a very good speaker. The Chairman reported that Roger Sutton from CERA gave a presentation on progress to date following the Canterbury earthquakes. The Chairman toured the Red Zone with the RSG and stated that there is a lot of frustration in some areas.

The Chairman reported that an Economist gave a presentation at the RSG meeting. Economic development was discussed and it was agreed that council's should be getting involved in their region's economic development. The Chairman stated that he feels this council is on the right track and regional economic development is very important.

The Chairman advised that he attended the LGNZ Transport Summit. He stated that there is not yet a clear solution on what is going to be done in this area.

The Chairman advised that he and the CEO were well received by the Hon Nathan Guy when they visited him in Wellington. An update on how the West Coast recovered from last year's drought was passed on to the Minister along with an update on the Regional Policy Statement consultation.

The Chairman reported that he attended a presentation at Westland Milk Products on the 26th of February. He stated that he toured the plant and this was interesting.

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

Carried

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke of the various meetings he attended and stated that there is quite a lot going. C. Ingle advised that he is unsure whether the RMA changes will happen before the election, he thinks this may be a post-election matter.

C. Ingle stated that he attended a meeting in Westport with the three District Council Chief Executives on the 28th of February. He stated that the main topic was tourism.

C. Ingle advised that the Westpac Financial Advisors paid him a visit last week. He stated that they will be presenting to the April Council meeting.

C. Ingle advised that he has made a submission on Westland Milk Products new drier consent application. He stated that this is a major project in terms of economic development. C. Ingle advised that this council is not involved in the consenting side of this project.

C. Ingle reminded the meeting that the budget round will be held after today's meeting.

Cr Birchfield asked C. Ingle if he could seek support from Selwyn District Council with regard to the Mingha Bluff section of State Highway 73. C. Ingle stated that he spoke with the Chief Executive of Selwyn District

Council regarding this at the recent SOLGM meeting. It was noted that the Mingha Bluffs are actually in the Canterbury region, yet there is a lot of product that travels by this route from the West Coast to Canterbury.

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

Carried

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.18 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date