

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.10 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 4 October 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE TRIENNIAL MEETING

Cr Archer asked for amendments to be made to the unconfirmed minutes.

- 1. Cr Archer stated that there was no seconder to the motion relating to the appointment of council representatives onto the Regional Transport Committee, and a point of order was then called.*
- 2. Cr Archer asked that reference to Section 338 RMA be included in the reference to the decision on the Delegations Manual.*

A new version of the minutes was tabled.

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Triennial Council Meeting dated 17 October 2016, be confirmed as correct, with the amendments made as requested by Cr Archer.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting dated 27 October 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal reported that a contract variation for the work in the Franz Josef rating district was made to allow for de-armouring of the river along with survey site work. He stated this additional work was completed below the original contracted price. R. Beal stated that the rating district spokesperson has said that the Waiho River is now in the best state that it has been in for a number of years. R. Beal advised that further straightening of the river channel is being considered.

R. Beal spoke of recent work done in the Neil's Beach rating district. Cr Archer asked R. Beal for an update on what type of coast protection work the rating district is considering. R. Beal responded that the beach is now building up again and the river mouth is currently exactly where it needs to be, and in view of this the rating district wants to spend as little money as possible. M. Meehan advised that only a few property owners want options for a seawall to be investigated further. R. Beal advised that the rating district has requested that a resource consent is put in place in case they wish to go ahead with further protection work. Cr McDonnell stated that the rating district is weary that the replenishment work that has been done, could be washed away and this is why they do not want to spend more money at the moment. M. Meehan advised that the rating district will be set up via the annual plan process. He advised this will give the rating district an opportunity to make submissions on the annual plan and this is when the rate will be set. Cr McDonnell commented that most of the properties in the rating district are modern and reasonably high value homes.

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger) *that this report is received.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson reported that this is the quarterly financial report. He stated that he is happy with the interim financial results which show a surplus of over \$1M compared to the budgeted surplus of just under \$180,000 for the three month period. R. Mallinson stated that a strong cash flow during October and early November has allowed him to substantially reduce the level of short bank borrowing. He advised that there have been positive returns from the Westpac Investment Portfolio for the quarter to September but it has reduced in value by over \$100,000 during the October market unsettling. Cr McDonnell noted that Westpac's return is only about 6% compared to 8% from other providers. He asked if it is worth following up with Westpac on this. R. Mallinson stated that he is not happy with Westpac's performance over the past 18 months and he is now having a review of their performance completed. Discussion took place on investment risk. R. Mallinson advised he has engaged Bancorp to review Westpac's actual performance compared to appropriate benchmarks. R. Mallinson confirmed that Council has been with Westpac since September 2012 and Council can change fund managers at any time.

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

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that he attended the Taramakau rating district annual meeting recently. The Chairman passed on his thanks to the new team, he stated that the new staff were well prepared and questions were answered well.

The Chairman stated that Hon Nick Smith spoke about climate change at the recent Regional Sector Group meeting. M. Meehan stated that Hon Smith pointed out that climate change predictions have not been exactly how scientists predicted they would happen, sea level rise has not gone up the way they

were predicting. M. Meehan stated that the message he got was that if a subdivision is being considered in a coastal area then honest conversations need to be held with these communities about the reality of having a subdivision there and to ensure that LIM's are tagged to the facts and risks in having a house in this area. M. Meehan advised that in some cases people may only have 40 or 50 years in that location before they need to move and it is important to provide the best possible information to these communities and that this information is included in LIM reports. Cr Archer stated that those who build homes in high hazard areas cannot be stopped from building, but they need to ensure that the title is tagged, noting that the land is hazardous. Cr Archer stated that subsequent purchasers are the people that stand to lose the most if there haven't been reports and investigations done on the likely threats of damage to property. The Chairman stated that it is very important the risks are covered in LIM reports. M. Meehan stated that a case by case approach must be taken as Hokitika is a classic example of an area where there is an erosion cycle and every 20 years it gets hammered. He stated that this has been happening since the 1870's well before climate change was considered.

The Chairman reported that the new air quality regulations will be in place early next year, along with a best practice for log burners for throughout New Zealand.

The Chairman reported that he attended the Visiting Drivers Project Governance Group meeting recently and he was informed that \$1M is to be spent on road safety improvements throughout the West Coast.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He stated that Tasman and Marlborough have approached Council with a view to having a top of the south award for the Balance Farm Environment Awards. M. Meehan stated that he will report back to Council with more information on what would be involved.

M. Meehan reported that MFE provided an update at the Chief Executive's Environmental Forum on the Freshwater NPS. He stated that the attendees made it clear to MFE that Councils wish to get on with implementing the NPS and are keen to work with what is in place.

M. Meehan stated that he spoke at the Federated Farmers annual meeting recently. He stated that it was quite a positive meeting, and he answered questions on Council planning documents and noted that Federated Farmers Planner is supportive of the work council is doing in this area. He also took questions on Council's annual consent fees and the new gravel fees, and encouraged the attendees to make submissions on Council's next annual plan.

M. Meehan reported that Hon Nick Smith will be releasing swim ability maps for the whole country. M. Meehan advised that there has been a lot of discussion at a national level on what swim ability is. He stated that MFE have used the data that regional councils collect. They have checked to ensure that the maps are accurate. M. Meehan advised that the maps are based on the 20 samples that council takes over the summer for the different sites where recreational swimming is done. He stated that some sites have been hot spots in the past but the majority of our region is very good. M. Meehan advised that there will be quite a lot of media attention around this issue.

M. Meehan reported that Hon Nick Smith has advised that he is keen to keep the Land and Water Forum going as a way to continue to inform the government on freshwater issues.

M. Meehan stated that he attended the Franz Josef and Lower Waiho rating district meetings on 9 November. He stated that follow up work needs to be done for Franz Josef and now that the new Mayor for Westland is on board, M. Meehan will ensure that the Franz Josef Working Group is up and running again.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.52 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date