

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.20 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

(McDonnell / Challenger) *That the apology from Cr Robb be accepted.*

*Carried*

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (McDonnell / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 7 February 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr Archer asked M. Meehan if there has been any progress in the risk management area which he had agreed to follow up on. R. Mallinson responded that he has been working on this and he is bringing a report to the April Council meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

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

M. Meehan spoke to this report in R. Beal's absence. M. Meehan reported that considerable work has been done in the Waitangitaona rating district to repair damaged stopbanks.

M. Meehan advised that a consent hearing for rock recovery at White Horse for the Punakaiki rating district has been held. M. Meehan stated that he is optimistic of receiving the decision reasonably quickly, but advised that the rating district does not want to commit to any funding until a price is obtained for the work.

M. Meehan reported that following the receipt of the updated report from NIWA, there is now support for the forming a rating district for Granity, Ngakawau and Hector.

M. Meehan reported that 203 submissions were received on the Buller River Flood Consultation project, this will be discussed further in the workshop following today's meeting.

M. Meehan reported that he visited the Carters Beach recently and stated that the erosion in this area is still quite a distance away from impacting on private property. He advised that it would be prudent to await the NIWA report before any decisions are made.

M. Meehan reported that there has been demand for rock from the Kiwi Quarry; makesafe work has been carried out also. M. Meehan advised that a makesafe work plan is in place at the Whataroa Quarry.

Cr McDonnell asked what the balance in the Waitangitaona rating district account is at the moment in view of the amount of work that has been done recently. M. Meehan advised that this is a well-resourced rating district with a fairly healthy account. It was agreed that R. Mallinson would provide this information after the meeting. Cr Ewen asked about the cost of the joint repair work on the Greymouth Floodwall. M. Meehan stated that he would

ask R. Beal to provide additional information on this work. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That this report is received.*
2. *That Council note the ongoing community consultation with the Granity and Hector communities, which may lead to recommendations to form rating districts for H1, H2, H3 and G3 and G4 sections of Granity and Hector.*

*Carried*

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

R. Mallinson tabled an updated financial report and stated that he had not accounted for the revenue on the 10 year whitebait stand renewals. He advised that this figure amounted to just under \$65,000 and therefore the surplus is now \$1.054M. R. Mallinson advised that Westpac investment portfolio made a substantial rebound during February and this will be reflected in next month's financials. R. Mallinson advised that during March he is heavily committed with budget and annual plan work and with Councillor approval he is requesting that he does not bring a financial report to the March meeting. He advised that the next financial report will be for the nine months to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

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

*Carried*

### **4.2.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION SUBMISSION ON WEST COAST GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that 699 submissions were received. He stated that the Local Government Commission (LGC) felt that there was potential for change and they have now called for options from the community. He advised that the four councils and Development West Coast (DWC) got together to decide how a submission could be put together on behalf of the four councils and DWC. It was agreed that work done in the past would be built on, keeping the existing structure but ramping up shared services in particular areas. M. Meehan advised that the LGC provided support to look at planning and roading along with IT as there has been a lot of work done with the other councils in this area. He noted that there is a strong desire from the Mayors and Chairs forum to keep the existing structure. M. Meehan stated that the submission is due today, WCRC is the last council to approve the submission as the three district councils have now signed off on it.

Cr Ewen expressed his concern regarding collaboration between councils as he feels that recently there seems to be a lack of collaboration in this area. Cr Birchfield stated that he totally rejects the submission as he does not accept that shared services are going to run. He stated that the three mayors will never work in together. Cr Birchfield stated that the dredge in Westport does not have enough work and Grey District Council have spent a lot of money on a dredge that doesn't work. Cr Birchfield stated that this is a typical example of where there is no cooperation between councils. Cr Birchfield is not in favour of the submission, he stated that Councillors have not been given any input into the growth study and they have not had any input into this submission. Cr Birchfield stated that he is in favour of one Council for the West Coast. Cr McDonnell stated that the three Mayors had indicated that they wanted three unitary councils. M. Meehan advised that this was raised but the Mayors have now backed off idea. Cr Archer stated that he is concerned that the whole concept of trying to work together is being affected by orchestrated campaigns behind the scenes to undermine things. He stated that he is concerned with what the report says and what is actually happening. Cr Archer stated that there is huge scope for the amalgamation of resources but there will be reluctance by the councils because the eventual outcome if it goes through to the natural conclusion will be a single unitary authority. Cr Archer stated that the LGC will be the decider. He stated that he supports the recommendation. Cr Clementson agreed with Cr Archer and stated that if Council cannot be seen to be collaborating with the other councils then it may be that something is foisted on Council that nobody is happy with. He stated that there is positive work happening which needs to be communicated a lot better. He stated that matters such as one district plan, IT support and alignment of services need to be given timeframes. M. Meehan advised that DWC are prepared to sign the submission. M. Meehan commented that it is important that the leaders of the region show that they are aligned and that communication is improved. M. Meehan stated that the LGC will take around six months to make a decision and during this time things may change. Extensive discussion ensued with examples of what happened in other parts of the country when amalgamations were considered. M. Meehan spoke of the work that is currently being done in relation to shared services, RMA planning alignment and the work that the LGC is doing.

The motions were put. The Deputy Chairman asked for a show of hands. Crs McDonnell, Challenger, Clementson and Archer were in favour. Crs Birchfield and Ewen were against.

**Moved** (McDonnell / Challenger)

1. That Council approves the joint submission from the West Coast Councils to the Local Government Commission on West Coast governance arrangements.
2. That the Chairman is authorised to sign the submission on behalf of the West Coast Regional Council.

*Crs Birchfield & Ewen Against  
Carried*

## 5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman's report was taken as read.

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

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and provided an update on various meetings he attended. He stated that the Freshwater NPS was discussed at the Regional Sector Group meeting on 17 February. He advised that MfE were encouraged to give Councils time to implement the NPS.

M. Meehan stated that there is some very good progress being made with the Franz Josef Working Group. He spoke of the various agencies and people involved and the opportunity to move forward as a community.

M. Meehan advised that he was unable to attend the public launch of the Paparoa National Park Plan, but he did attend the meeting with Hon Nick Smith which was held here the same day. M. Meehan stated that the clear message from this meeting was that the Minister would like to see improvements in water quality even though we have 99% swimmable waterways in our region. M. Meehan stated that there is an opportunity to solve some water quality issues that we have, such as Sawyers Creek. He stated that the district council is working on this. M. Meehan explained to the meeting how the 99% swimmable water quality results were obtained.

Cr Archer asked for further information on the Franz Josef Working Group and how this sits with the community.

M. Meehan advised that the group was formed by Mike Havill, the former Mayor of Westland. He advised that the main reason for the formation of the group was the alpine fault avoidance zone. He advised that the formation of the working group was an outcome of the mediation. M. Meehan advised that representatives were voted onto the working group by the community, and it consists of local business owners, NZTA, Iwi representatives, DoC staff and representatives from both councils. M. Meehan advised that the desire of the working group is to move forward and to understand where future developments are heading to. M. Meehan stated that landowners are keen to know where they can move to and where they would be safer. He stated that the recent GNS report came out of the working group and the work that has been done will allow for the masterplan to happen. M. Meehan advised that the district council is leading the working group but assistance is required from this council and more of a lead role could be required going forward. Discussion took place on the alpine fault, the fault avoidance zone and the withdrawal of Plan Change 7.

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

*Carried*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.13 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date