

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **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**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 December 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

Cr Ewen drew attention to page two of the minutes where he asked if the Chairman of the Regional Transport Committee has a casting vote. N. Costley agreed to follow up on this and email Cr Ewen after today's meeting.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Clementson reported that he attended his first Regional Transport Committee Workshop in early January. He reported that the Kaikoura earthquake has raised some further developments which will be discussed in general business.

Cr Clementson reported that he and Cr Robb attended the LGNZ Leadership Course along with other Chairs and Deputy Chairs from around the country. He stated that this was a very worthwhile course, with most other regional councils facing similar issues to varying degrees.

Cr Clementson reported the he and Cr Archer attended the Westport Flood Working Group sessions, which Cr Archer will provide an update on during the Council meeting.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT**

N. Costley spoke to this report in S. Jones's absence and advised that the total number of further submissions on the Proposed Coastal Plan was 26. N. Costley advised that staff will be working on the recommending report for this over the coming months.

N. Costley reported that the Collaborative Workshop that was held last year for the Proposed Regional Policy Statement received very good buy in from the parties that attended. She stated that 26 people attended representing 16 different organisations. N. Costley reported that the stakeholders in attendance talked through the various issues that they have and now have a better understanding of where they each are coming from. She reported that following the workshop, priorities have been written up highlighting areas for change and revision within the draft RPS. N. Costley advised that the group will meet again for a one day session to work through these priorities. She stated that feedback on this workshop has been very positive. M. Meehan stated that a hui was held following the workshop and good progress is being made with Ngai Tahu and the two local Runanga. M. Meehan stated that a lot of work will be done to avoid issues into the future. J. Douglas stated that she and Makaawhio found the workshop very valuable and they came away feeling that people understood each other better and she is looking forward to working with this group again soon. Cr Archer asked if there were any entrenched views on matters. M. Meehan responded that he felt everyone still has their position but there is a lot better understanding of where other parties are at and by the third day everyone had got to where they needed to be. He stated that good outcomes were gained and some very meaty issues were sorted through.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that the flood event on 18 & 19 of January was a reasonable size event with indicative analysis of the Grey River revealing that it was just under a one in ten year (.116%) annual probability flood. M. Meehan advised that the alarm on the Waiho River has been set at 8 metres for quite a long time, this was changed back down to 6.75 metres because the river has cut down around the bridge area. He stated that during this flood event the Waiho River only just got above the alarm level.

M. Meehan reported that during the flood event, the Flood Committee for the Grey River met at 12.30am and again at 05.30am, as per the Flood Action Plan for the Grey River. M. Meehan advised that because of the prior warning from Met Service, staff were well organised beforehand with a good roster set up for flood warning. Cr McDonnell asked if the Waiho River has kept to its channel following the recent flood event. R. Beal confirmed that the river has cut in where the rock was removed near the bridge and further work has been done towards the Canvans Knob area. M. Meehan advised that this was not a large flood event for South Westland. Cr Birchfield stated that it is a good plan to take rock out of the river as it is cheap option and can be reused on stopbanks.

**Moved** (Challenger / Birchfield) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that undesirable results have been recorded at Marrs Beach (Buller River). He stated that the results at Shingle Beach (Buller River) the results are good. M. Meehan spoke of the work done a few years ago around the upper Buller River catchment to ascertain the causation for the issues in this area. He advised that the cause could not be determined but there is a link with rain, he stated that he is surprised that the Shingle Beach results are good considering the amount of rain this summer. M. Meehan noted that this summer has been very wet with consistent rain and he is expecting further undesirable results relating to stormwater runoff and other effects. Cr Archer stated that the catchment area for Shingle Beach is tiny compared to the catchment area around Marrs Beach and he agreed that this is a complex issue. Cr Archer feels that the high levels of E Coli must be coming from run off from adjoining land and he feels that it is a shame that the source has not been found and he would like to think that Council has not given up on finding the source. M. Meehan stated that a lot of effort was put into this, source tracking was carried out and the results revealed avian, bovine and human sources but the results did not pinpoint the source being runoff from farm land. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that further work would be done over this summer. Cr Archer asked if there is a strategy in place to address this. M. Meehan advised that

the normal strategy would be to find the source and then work on what is revealed. M. Meehan stated that work with the district council could be done to ensure that they are doing everything they can to avoid these issues and then do the same work with the adjoining landowners. M. Meehan stated that he is still expecting to see further undesirable results as these are spot samples and there has been significant rain which will continue to cause problems. Cr Ewen noted that this area is in an estuary zone and he asked if there is any correlation with tides. M. Meehan stated that samples are taken at low tide for health and safety reasons. Extensive discussion took place on costs, expectations from the community and bathing areas around urban areas. Cr Robb stated that there are lots of communities around New Zealand who are experiencing similar problems. M. Meehan agreed that source tracking is expensive but stated that there is contingency within the budget for this, he explained how source tracking works to the meeting. Further discussion took place, M. Meehan advised that swim ability is a very complex matter and there is a lot of discussion on this at a national level. Cr Ewen suggested dropping Marrs Beach of the sampling list if a solution can't be found. Cr Robb stated that it is important that Council is fair to any potential protagonist. Cr Clementson commented that there is a huge waterfowl population in the estuary in this area.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report in G. McCormack's absence. Cr Challenger drew attention to the DoC's resource consent to discharge contaminated material to land at the Alexander Mine site. Cr Challenger stated this is a similar situation to the Waiuta Mine site. Cr Challenger asked why a non-notified consent has been granted if the national environmental standard is not being met. M. Meehan suggested that Mark Davies from DoC is invited to a future Council meeting to discuss rehabilitation of both mine sites.

Cr Ewen asked for more graphical location information in this report in future as there are several rivers and creeks in the region with the same name.

**Moved** (Birchfield / McDonnell) *That the February 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report in G. McCormack's absence and took it as read. M. Meehan advised that eight formal warnings were issued, one infringement notice, and four abatement notices were issued. M. Meehan answered questions from Cr Birchfield regarding an abatement notice issued at Slatey Creek relating to gravel extraction. Discussion took place on the rules regarding gravel extraction including the permitted activity rules. M. Meehan stated that Council appreciates as much information as possible regarding all complaints.

Cr Challenger raised the matter of the abatement notice issued to Westland District Council for the wastewater outfall pipe which had not been repaired within the timeframe given. M. Meehan advised that the abatement notice allows for the pipe to be repaired by 1 April. M. Meehan stated that he is unsure why this is not in the table in this report. M. Meehan responded to Cr Clementson's question regarding the five formal warnings issued to the same operator. He stated that this relates to an annual work programme and technical problems that are required to be reported on. Cr Ewen stated that he is concerned that consistency could be lacking in this area. M. Meehan stated that Council has an Enforcement Policy which is followed and applied as consistently as possible. Extensive discussion ensued and various questions were asked of M. Meehan. He explained the enforcement policy in detail to Councillors. It was agreed that the Enforcement Policy would be reviewed at a workshop following next month's Council meeting.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *That the report be received.*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Robb stated that he is seeking permission for Council to accept a late item from the Regional Transport Committee. Cr Robb stated that the reason for the late item is that it is emergency works and requires an alteration of the Regional Transport Plan and it cannot be held over until the next Council meeting.

**MOVED** (Robb / Archer) *That the late item be accepted.*

*Carried*

**LATE ITEM**

**VARIATION TO THE WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 – 21**

Cr Robb advised that there will be no funding impact on Council funding. Cr Clementson asked the meeting if all present have had an opportunity to read the documents. N. Costley confirmed the report relates to upgrades across State Highway’s 63, 6, 65 and 7. Cr Clementson stated that this relates to is the Lewis Pass and Shenandoah area which is part of our region.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer)

1. *That Council approves the variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 for the inclusion of the Kaikoura Nov EQ; Lewis Pass Alternative Upgrade Route - \$15,000,000; and*
2. *That Council submits the variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.*

*Carried*

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date