

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE 2019 TRIENNIAL ELECTION HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M. ON 25 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield, P. Ewen, S. Challenger, D. Magner, B. Cummings, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. Mills (Planning, Science & Innovation Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

The Chief Executive Officer chaired the meeting until a Chairperson was elected.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

M. Meehan welcomed Councillors to the meeting and congratulated them on being elected. He called for apologies. There were no apologies.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS:

M. Meehan commenced the meeting. Each Councillor then read aloud and signed their declaration.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND CHAIRPERSON OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

M. Meehan called for nominations for Chairperson.

Cr Ewen nominated Cr Birchfield as Chairperson. Cr Cummings seconded the nomination.

Cr Challenger nominated Cr Magner as Chairperson. Cr Coll McLaughlin seconded the nomination.

M. Meehan invited Crs Birchfield and Magner to speak to their nomination.

Cr Birchfield stated that this is his 6th term on Council. He stated that he is a good advocate for the industry and is well aware that there is a difference in the role between being a Councillor and being Chairman. He stated as Chairman you need to speak for and represent the whole Council and consider everybody's views.

Cr Magner stated that she has the skills and attributes as well as the experience for the Chair role. She believes that the Chair has to have integrity, honesty, reliability and commitment to the role. The Chair has to have the ability to influence others without dominating, effectively gaining contribution from all Councillors. Personal strength and resilience to tough times and situations, vision and a passion for the organisation and its work, emotional intelligence and the ability to build effective team and external relationships. Intellect and experience, decisiveness and courage, the ability to chair meetings and focus, and the ability to prioritise. Cr Magner stated that if given support, she will demonstrate all of these things. Cr Magner stated that in the present challenging environment Council needs someone who can present the views of the whole Council in a manner that that will be accepted and heard and someone who can cooperate effectively with others to achieve a goal. Cr Magner stated that she has a calm manner, organised approach and an agile mind which she wants to use to best represent our position and options to outside parties. Cr Magner stated that she is used to dealing with a variety of people in business and has good skills in presenting a situation and arguing a case. Cr Magner has previous experience in other leadership positions, in bringing a team together and creating a unified positive direction. Cr Magner has completed governance training through the West Coast Leadership and Governance Course in 2015 and this provided a good basis for understanding the complexities of the role. Cr Magner stated she wishes to stand for the Chair position to use her communication skills to ensure that Council

can have effective and open dialogue with government representatives and others, so that our West Coast voice is heard. Cr Magner will offer an inclusive style of leadership where all Councillors views are valued and can be discussed. She stated she will be a very strong advocate for West Coast businesses.

M. Meehan thanked Crs Birchfield and Magner and asked Councillors if they had any questions for the Chair candidates. There were no questions.

M. Meehan asked for a show of hands for Cr Birchfield's nomination. There were four votes in favour, Crs Ewen, Cummings, Hill and Birchfield.

M. Meehan congratulated both candidates for putting their names forward.

M. Meehan declared Cr Birchfield elected as Chairperson.

Cr Birchfield took the Chair. He read and signed his declaration as Chairman. Cr Birchfield thanked Councillors for their support.

The Chairman called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.

Cr Ewen nominated Cr Challenger as deputy chair. Cr Magner seconded the nomination.

The Chairman called for further nominations.

Cr Cummings nominated Cr Magner. There was no seconder. The motion was lost. There were no further nominations.

Cr Birchfield declared Cr Challenger elected as Deputy Chairman. M. Meehan explained that the Deputy Chairman chairs the Resource Management Committee meeting which is held prior to the Council meeting, which Cr Birchfield as Chairman will chair.

4. GENERAL EXPLANATIONS PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 21 OF SCHEDULE 7 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002

R. Mallinson drew attention to this report and advised that this is requirement by statute. He drew Councillors attention to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968, Secret Commissions Act 1910, Crimes Act 1961, and Securities Act 1978.

Moved (Cumming / Hill) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Chairman spoke briefly to this report. Each member was asked to complete the form and return it to the Corporate Services Manager prior to the next meeting.

6. SALARIES, MILEAGE AND ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS

R. Mallinson presented this report to the meeting. He advised that on and from 18 October 2019 all elected members (returning and newly elected) will be paid at the "minimum rate" prescribed in the Remuneration Authority determination 20 June 2019. He advised that the Chair remuneration of \$83,500 takes effect on and from the date the Chair is elected at today's meeting. He advised that all other members will be paid at the minimum rate of \$35,733. R. Mallinson stated that he will bring further recommendations to the November Council meeting with regard to the Remuneration Pool prescribed by the Remuneration Authority as this deals with how the prescribed pool of \$317,737 is allocated to the Deputy Chair and Councillor salaries. He advised that mileage involved in attending Council meetings and other Council business is reimbursed at 77c/km.

Moved (Cummings / Hill) *that this report be received.*

Carried

7. ESTABLISHING COUNCIL COMMITTEES

M. Meehan advised that this report shows how Council is structured. He advised that he has outlined how Council traditionally has structured its committees. M. Meehan stated that traditionally Council has had a single Standing Committee, the Resource Management Committee. He stated that each council meeting starts off with the Resource Management Committee meeting which includes elected members plus appointees from Ngati Waewae and Makaawhio and is traditionally chaired by the deputy chairman. The Council meets after this meeting. M. Meehan explained the function of the Regional Transport Committee and the West Coast Emergency Management Group which is a joint committee of the four councils and is a requirement under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act. He advised that included is the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee along with the Hokitika Seawall Joint Committee.

Cr Challenger asked if the One District Plan Committee (Te Tai O Poutini Committee) is included in this report. M. Meehan advised that this is a joint committee but was formed under an Order of Council through the Local Government Commission, and does not need to be formally constituted as it has gone through the Order of Council, but there will be two appointees required. It was noted that there is no floodwall committee for Buller as there is no flood structure works that Council oversees on the Buller River but in view of the Westport 2100 work, potentially this is something that Council might wish to look at in this term.

Moved (Ewen / Challenger) *That Council re-constitute the above Committees, for the three year term of the new Council.*

Carried

8. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER COMMITTEES

M. Meehan advised the tradition with the Resource Management Committee is that the Deputy Chairman chairs this committee and all elected members are appointed to this committee. This was agreed to.

9. WEST COAST CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

M. Meehan advised that he has attached the constitution of the West Coast Civil Defence Group to this report. He stated that this group meets quarterly, prior to the commencement of the Mayors and Chairs forum and traditionally the Chair and Deputy Chair is appointed to this group. M. Meehan advised that the Chair and Deputy Chair have the power to declare a state of emergency within our region. Cr Challenger stated that he is interested in Civil Defence as this is part of his work as an engineer. It was agreed that the appointees would be the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

M. Meehan advised that this is a statutory requirement under the Land Transport Act. Traditionally the Council Chair and Deputy Chair have to be appointed to this committee.

Cr Ewen stated that he has been a member of this committee for two terms previously and would be happy to be appointed. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman and Cr Ewen would be appointed to this committee.

GREYMOOUTH FLOODWALL JOINT COMMITTEE

M. Meehan advised that traditionally the three Councillors that live in the Grey constituency are elected to this committee. It was agreed that Crs Birchfield, Ewen and Cummings would be on this committee.

Carried

HOKITIKA SEAWALL JOINT COMMITTEE

M. Meehan recommended the two Councillors that live in the Westland constituency and the Council Chairman be appointed to this committee. It was agreed that Crs Magner and Challenger would be on this committee.

REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

M. Meehan advised this committee is organised by Ospri and meets regularly to manage Bovine Tb disease management and to give policy advice and feedback to the Ospri Board. He stated that in the past a Councillor with farming knowledge has been appointed to this committee. It was agreed that Cr Magner would be appointed to this committee.

DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST

M. Meehan advised that the four West Coast councils are responsible for jointly appointing one trustee to Development West Coast with the appointment process set out in the Trust Deed. He stated that Dame Julie Christie is the current appointee. M. Meehan advised that the Mayors and the Council Chair traditionally make up this Appointments Panel for Development West Coast.

M. Meehan advised that the One District Plan Committee (Te Tai O Poutini Plan Committee) is a joint committee of the four councils, Makaawhio, Ngati Waewae, with Rex Williams as the independent Chair. He advised that there is discretion around who the other Councillor appointee is and this can be made at the special council meeting scheduled for next week.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin / Challenger) *That Council agrees to the committee appointments for the three year term.*

Carried

10. STANDING ORDERS

R. Mallinson advised that Council is required to adopt a set of Standing Orders. He advised that Council used to use the model standing orders produced by the New Zealand Standards Association but they no longer maintain these. R. Mallinson advised that LGNZ produces a model template and it would be appropriate for Council to consider adopting these. R. Mallinson advised that previous Council's have voted not to provide a casting vote to the Chairman in the event of a tied vote. R. Mallinson stated that if the current Council wishes to continue this approach it would be necessary to exclude clause 19.3 of the Model Template. Cr Birchfield clarified that at the moment this means that the Chair does not have the casting vote but because there are seven members on Council there cannot be a tied vote. It was agreed that the status quo would remain. M. Meehan advised that there are rules in place should a tie happen.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin / Cummings) *that Council adopt the Template Model Set of Standing Orders produced by Local Government NZ, and that Clause 19.3 is excluded.*

Carried

11. COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

R. Mallinson advised that this is a requirement of the Local Government Act and stated that this was first adopted by Council in 2003. R. Mallinson advised that any amendment or adoption of a new Code requires a vote of not less than 75% of the members present. R. Mallinson advised that LGNZ has developed a new Code of Conduct, he offered to circulate this electronically to Councillors and suggested this could be workshopped prior to adoption. Councillors agreed with this.

Moved (Ewen / Hill) *that the report be received.*

Carried

12. DELEGATIONS MANUAL

R. Mallinson advised that the existing Delegations Manual has been circulated, and Councillors may wish to workshop this document prior to considering any changes. M. Meehan advised that this should be workshopped within the next month or so. It was noted that this document was amended in 2018.

Moved (Challenger / Magner) *That the report be received.*

Carried

13. SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

R. Mallinson advised that traditionally Council has held its monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, excluding January. R. Mallinson stated that the recommendation is to confirm the November and December Council meeting dates, Tuesday 12 November and Tuesday 10 December. M. Meehan advised that there is a clash with the 12 November with the LGNZ training which is being held in Hokitika. M. Meehan stated that a special meeting will need to be held next week to adopt the Audited Annual Report and to discuss the Submission on Action for healthy waterways: A discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater. R. Mallinson advised that special meeting would need to be held before 31 October in order to adopt the Audited Annual Report on the last possible statutory day which is 31 October. M. Meehan advised that there is the opportunity for Councillors to dial in to special meetings as Standing Orders can be suspended to allow for remote participation. R. Mallinson advised that there would need to be four people in the room to agree to suspend Standing Orders. Cr Coll McLaughlin asked if those not present can still vote. R. Mallinson confirmed this.

Moved (Cummings / Magner) *that Council holds a Special Meeting on 31 October.*

Carried

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.12 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date