

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3 MAY 2022 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 6:01PM.

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chair), S Challenger (via zoom), P. Ewen, B. Cummings, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin (via zoom), D Magner (via zoom).

IN ATTENDANCE:

H. Mabin (Chief Executive), J Hutchings (Henley Hutchings, via zoom), Matt Gardner (Land River Sea Consulting Ltd, via zoom).

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

G Williams (consultant) and F Tumahai were noted as apologies.

Moved (Cummings/Challenger) *That the apologies be accepted.*

Carried

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest. As per previous declarations, Cr Coll McLaughlin advised the meeting that her father C Coll was on the Technical Advisory Group, and that she is an employee of Chris J Coll Surveying.

4. REPORT - RETROSPECTIVE FLOOD PROTECTION MAINTENANCE WORKS

H Mabin spoke to this report and took it as read. She invited John Hutchings and Matt Gardner to speak to the Council on the matters raised. J Hutchings gave a brief overview of the paper. M Gardner advised the Council that he had full faith in Gary William's design, and that Mr Williams had considerable experience and was a fellow of IPENZ.

Cr Ewen asked that in future reports, the terminology should be correctly used as 'true right' or 'true left' in relation to the river banks.

Chair Birchfield noted that Council originally agreed to do a section of stopbank downstream towards the railway embankment, but that had changed now and the work had moved upstream to Organs Island. J Hutchings confirmed that that work was going to proceed, and that the TAG was going to meet to confirm final alignment and design, and after that tendering could proceed. Geotech work is underway this week, but it is not yet ready to put on the table right now.

Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that she would be supporting all the recommendations but just had questions of clarification. She asked about the increased cost as she had a number of queries from the community on the significant increase. She asked M Gardner to clarify what the increased cost related to. He clarified that the design alignment hadn't been drawn up at that stage of initial costing, but subsequently G Williams had visited the site with the TAG, did design alignment calculations, and looked at the length of the proposed works.

Cr Ewen asked about the photos on page 9 and what happened to the vegetation. M Gardner confirmed that was flood damage, where the vegetation had been ripped out by the floods.

Cr Challenger asked whether the design was for a 100 year event. He gave the examples of Franz and Hokitika as being for less. M Gardner confirmed that it was, noting that G Williams had looked at the velocities used were assessed at 20-year, 50-year and 100-year events. M Gardner said that that was not to say that it may not sustain damage in a future event, but it had been designed for a 100 year event.

In response to a question from Cr Coll McLaughlin about whether it was possible to bring timelines forward, H Mabin advised that the timeframes were from advice given by P Birchfield, and confirmed that Ms Birchfield absolutely understood the urgency of the situation.

Cr Coll McLaughlin said that she had received questions about the proposed methods regarding whether gabion baskets were a method that was considered. She asked M Gardner to advise. M Gardner said that he had not discounted the use of gabion baskets but that typically they would be used on smaller rivers, and that the velocities in the Buller are large, with a lot of movement of rocks. This would abrade the wire, and also the river scours out so they would not sit on a firm bed. What is required in the Buller is very large rock, too large for gabion baskets, and smaller rocks if used would receive a lot of damage. They are also very labour intensive and come with significant cost. There may be certain areas where gabion baskets could be considered, but that will depend on the final design. Cr Challenger said that another issue with them was that they were susceptible to corrosion. Chair Birchfield agreed, noting that they simply would not last in the Buller.

In response to a query from Cr Coll McLaughlin about discussions with senior officials, the Chief Executive updated the Council that she had had discussions with DIA, and had endeavoured to have discussions with NEMA. She advised that she had held discussions with Kānoa but their focus was on the Council's existing IRG projects and there was no appetite to move any money from those IRG projects to these ones, and there was no additional money.

In terms of DIA, H Mabin had confirmed that the Buller Steering Group was not the right forum to take this to, as it was outside their remit. This had to therefore be included in the business case, and the hope is that central government funding might come through the business case. However there was no guarantee. H Mabin advised that she has started the conversation with NEMA around the emergency works, but as the Council does not own the assets in this situation she was unsure whether this would be successful. In the long run she felt that the business case was likely to be the only avenue for potentially sourcing central government funding.

Cr Coll McLaughlin thanked H Mabin for the work she had done on this, and sought confirmation that once the Council did the work it would become a Regional Council asset and Council would be able to claim for damage in future to those assets. H Mabin confirmed that claims to NEMA could be made for like for like, not betterment, at 60:40 split.

Cr Cummings asked about the O'Connor Home stopbank and whether it would be built on the riverbed or on the top of the bank. M Gardner confirmed his general understanding that it was to be toed in to the riverbed.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked for confirmation that both these assets would become Council assets in future, enabling NEMA claims etc. Chair Birchfield and the Chief Executive confirmed this.

Cr Hill asked about the timeframe and whether it was realistic. H Mabin advised that she was reliant on advice from P Birchfield and that Ms Birchfield was invested in seeing it proceeding. It was confirmed that no resource consents were required and that these works were permitted activities.

Moved: (Hill / Coll McLaughlin): *that the Council:*

1. *Receive this report.*
2. *Authorise Staff to proceed with maintenance work on the bank erosion near O’Conor Home, at an estimated cost of \$923,351.*
3. *Authorise Staff to proceed with maintenance work on Organ’s Island, at an estimated cost of \$1,701,762.*
4. *Agree to fund these works by:*
 - i. *Liquidating the Catastrophe fund portion of the Investment Portfolio, valued on 2 May 2022 to be \$982,184*
 - ii. *Rollover and increase the amount of debt maturing on 26 May 2022 from \$2,013,092 to \$3,750,000 for a period of 6 months.*

Carried

The meeting closed at 6:26 p.m.

.....
Chair

.....
Date