

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), J. Pullen (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8 September 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATION

Mark Davies addressed the meeting. Mr Davies stated that he is the new Regional Director for the Department of Conservation (DoC), and is based on the West Coast. Mr Davies stated that he is not new to DoC or this role but is new to the region. He previously worked in this role in the central North Island. Mr Davies stated that both DoC and WCRC have slightly different statutory obligations and different responsibilities but if there is a shared vision then this is where both parties will be able to communicate. Mr Davies stated that as long as the parties are open and honest and trust each other then a no surprises relationship can be made. Cr Birchfield stated that WCRC did not see much collaboration between the parties with regard to the Wetlands issues. Cr Birchfield stated that DoC imposed their wetlands list onto land against WCRC's wishes and this cost Council a lot of money. He stated that this did not go down well with the locals and he has been very vocal about this. Mr Davies advised that DoC participated in a Hui with WCRC staff last week on the Land and Water Plan. Mr Davies stated that he is very clear on his department's legislation (the Conservation Act) and Council's legislation (the Resource Management Act). He stated that RMA and concession processes are very important to DoC to ensure that statutory processes are managed efficiently. Mr Davies is very mindful that ratepayers and tax payers are the same people as in the end we all serve New Zealand. He stated that the last thing he wants to see is ratepayer and tax payer money being wasted because DoC and WCRC can't agree. Cr Ewen stated that he was surprised to read that the council operated quarries in South Westland are going to be prohibited from access. Cr Ewen stated he was also surprised to read of the additional 65,000 hectares to the Kahurangi National Park in Buller. Cr Ewen stated that dialogue needs to happen first as he is not happy to be reading about this. M. Meehan advised that the issue with the quarries in South Westland has come from New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals and not DoC. Mr Davies stated that one of the reasons he wanted to speak to Council today is that he is

very mindful that his predecessor left over a year ago and there is now a bit of a void. Mr Davies advised that one of his objectives is to have regular face to face meetings both at a CEO level and at a Chair and Council level. He stated that this region had been led out of Nelson and the re-establishment of his role acknowledges that the last year has not been great. Cr Ewen stated it is good to see DoC back on the West Coast. Cr Ewen thanked Mr Davies for his presentation. Mr Davies stayed on for the rest of the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he attended four tender openings during the reporting period. He also noted he had fielded calls from constituents on a couple of issues with regard to run off.

Moved (Ewen / Robb)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGERS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a Hui was held last week with Iwi and DoC to discuss issues that were raised during the pre-consultation phase for the Land and Water Plan. These issues were about wetlands and whitebait. M. Meehan advised that Iwi may wish to discuss these issues at the next council meeting. J. Douglas advised that matters are currently in Paul Madgwick's (Chair of Makaawhio) hands and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

M. Meehan reported that a lot of good feedback has been received on the Draft Coastal Plan and the drafting of changes is almost complete. M. Meehan stated that the Hui's that have been held with Iwi have been very beneficial and good dialogue with the district councils and DoC has been had. M. Meehan advised that he is aiming to have a workshop at the next council meeting to get further direction on the draft plan.

M. Meehan reported that 72 submissions have been received on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the summary of submissions is almost complete. M. Meehan advised that he is looking to get this out in the next month; it will then open for ten days for people to make further submissions. These submissions will then be collated and brought back to Council.

M. Meehan advised that the Environmental Reporting Act was passed through Parliament on 24 September. He advised that this is a way of linking in our information with what the Government is producing as part of their synthesis reports for MfE. M. Meehan advised that there is no requirement for regional councils to do any additional monitoring which was our major concern when it was first released in 2011. M. Meehan answered questions from Councillors.

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

Carried

5.1.2 REGIONAL PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT REVIEW

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He introduced Cameron Doake, Council's Biosecurity Officer, to the meeting. M. Meehan advised that C. Doake put this report together to ascertain direction as to where to from here with regard to the Pest Management Plan for the future. M. Meehan advised that that last review was done in 2010. M. Meehan advised that now that the National Policy Direction (NPD) is on hand, this will provide clarity for the future. M. Meehan explained the process and advised that the NPD has been worked through in conjunction with regional councils and other agencies. C. Doake displayed a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting and spoke to the presentation. He answered questions from councillors. M. Meehan stated that it is timely that M. Davies is present as Council has a very good relationship with DoC regarding pest plants. M. Meehan advised that Weedbusters (DoC advocacy officers) have been doing work around the region especially in areas of farmland and areas where pest plants are impacting on biodiversity values on DoC land. M. Meehan stated that C. Doake works closely with DoC, as they have a big stake in this area and they have a lot of sites where weed

control work is being done on a regular basis. C. Doake holds regular meetings with Weedbusters to ensure he is keeping up with the work they are doing. C. Doake spoke extensively about the work that is being done to prepare for the review of the Pest Plant Management Review.

M. Meehan advised that council ran a pest plant forum in December last year and this is being done again for this year. M. Meehan stated that the forum will be an opportunity to kick off pre-consultation work on the review. M. Meehan advised that Iwi, DoC, district councils, NZTA, forest owners, Federated Farmers, Westland Milk Products and any other interested parties will be invited to the forum to discuss the NPD on the current strategy. Feedback will be sought and workshops will then be held with council in April next year with a view to gaining further direction. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors. M. Davies commented that Minister Barry sees weeds as a huge threat to the country. He stated that ministers are now advocating for a greater emphasis on weed control because of the threat to both primary industries and to the values of the conservation state. Extensive discussion took place on pest plants.

Moved (Birchfield / McDonnell)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council agrees to the proposed consultation direction.*

Carried

5.1.3 REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF RULES REDUCTION TASKFORCE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that the findings of the Rules Reduction Taskforce have revealed that a lot of the rules are seen as unnecessary bureaucracy and some rules do not make sense. He gave examples of some of these types of rules. M. Meehan advised that the recommendations that the taskforce put in place, recommended that councils and central government have a can do attitude and have one consent officer processing an application through the whole process and proactively liaising with the applicant. M. Meehan assured the meeting that this council does have a can do attitude and because this council is quite small then generally it is one consent officer that is dealing with an application throughout the whole process. M. Meehan stated that J. Adams's staff are very helpful towards consent applicants. He stated that this council has a "red carpet not red tape" approach. M. Meehan stated that council completely agrees with MfE consulting with councils early on in the development of NPS's and NES's. M. Meehan stated that through plan changes, council has tried to capture minor activities where resource consents are not required, such as the culvert and bridge rule that was put into the Land and Water Plan. M. Meehan stated that the change to this rule allowed farmers to keep their stock out of the waterways without extra red tape, and this was a win win situation.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that two site visits were carried out. He reported that 15 consents were granted including the one for MBD Contracting Ltd. J. Adams advised that this consent has a lot of activities on it because MBD has taken on the consents that were held by Sicon Ferguson Ltd.

J. Adams answered various questions from Councillors including a question from Cr McDonnell relating to a resource consent for an access track in a Schedule 2 wetland. J. Adams responded that a site visit was made, the applicant sought biodiversity advice and it was confirmed that this was not a Schedule 2 wetland. J. Adams advised that this was the seventh application to do work in a Schedule 2 wetland and they have all been granted.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the October 2015 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 115 site visits were made during the reporting period with a considerable number of these inspections for whitebait stands. 21 complaints were received with four of these complaints being unsubstantiated.

J. Adams reported that four abatement notices and four infringement notices were issued during the reporting period. He reported that a recommendation was made to prosecute a mine for unlawful discharge. Seven work programmes were received during the reporting period with five approved and others pending further information to be submitted. Two bonds were received during the reporting period.

J. Adams answered various questions from councillors.

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger) *that the October 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Clementson thanked his fellow councillors and staff for agreeing to change the date for the council meeting to accommodate his request for a change of date.

Cr Ewen passed on his thanks to J. Adams on behalf of the Resource Management Committee. He wished J. Adams and his family all the best for his future.

The meeting closed at 11.38 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date