

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 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 (arrived 11.08), 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), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That the apology for Cr McDonnell for lateness be accepted.*

*Carried*

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 November 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **PRESENTATION**

The Chairman welcomed Rachel Roberts, Chairperson of Enterprise Hokitika to the meeting. She was accompanied by Barry Wilson, Chairman of the Central Business Group. Mr Wilson represents the business owners in the CBD. R. Roberts addressed the meeting and advised that Enterprise Hokitika is an Incorporated Society and has roles in tourism promotions, marketing of Hokitika, and the Cool Little Town branding. R. Roberts stated that Enterprise Hokitika presented to the Hokitika Seawall Rating District meeting to try to get a recommendation to WCRC to relook at the previously proposed E Class. R. Roberts spoke at length about the merits of the E class. She feels that there was not enough consultation on this matter and that the B Class is funding the lion's share of the rate. R. Roberts stated she would like Council to revisit this matter and to look at a fairer system. Cr Archer stated that the prime purpose when setting rates is looking at who the affected parties are. Cr Archer asked several questions of R. Roberts. B. Wilson addressed the meeting. He expressed his concern that the B Class are paying the major proportion. B. Wilson stated that Central Business Group feel there should be a B class member on the seawall committee. B. Wilson stated those outside the town boundary from Kaniere out, have stated that they do not benefit from the CBD. B. Wilson stated that these people work in town and use the CBD and they do benefit from the seawall. Cr Ewen advised that this sort of situation is not unique to Hokitika as there is the same situation in Greymouth with the Coal Creek rating district. Cr Ewen stated that Council is very conscious of a double up situation for people that have been paying rates for flood protection for many years. Cr Ewen stated that Council endeavours to get the best benefit for the community concerned. Cr Ewen advised that Council would be back in touch once they have considered this presentation. Cr Robb informed R. Roberts of the makeup of the Hokitika Seawall committee and stated that there are three councillors from Westland District Council, himself as Chairman, and Cr Challenger and

Cr McDonnell who represent the Westland constituents on the Regional Council. Cr Robb stated that the makeup of this committee is very similar to the makeup of the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee which has worked well over the years. Cr Robb stated that smaller rating districts committees are made up from members of the rating district. B. Wilson stated that Enterprise Hokitika do not want any favours; they just want a level playing field. Cr Ewen thanked B. Wilson and R. Roberts for their presentation.

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

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the Lake Brunner presentation with fellow Councillors. He stated this was a good news story for Council. Cr Ewen attended the last of the rating district meetings for the year and dealt with a couple of routine enquiries.

**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 Summary of Decisions Requested for the RPS was notified on 6 December. M. Meehan stated that as a result of the slight extension of the submission period a further 12 further submissions are expected.

M. Meehan reported that the recent Pest Plant Forum was held on 26 of November. He advised that NZTA, DoC, district councils, Dairy NZ, LINZ and other agencies attended with good discussions on the National Policy Direction, and implementing this through the next plan review. M. Meehan reported that staff have started to draft the Plan and this will be brought back to council in March or April for further discussion.

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

*Carried*

##### **5.1.2 PROPOSED REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that the Coastal Plan Review has been through a number of councillor workshops and pre consultation with DoC, district councils and Hui's with Iwi. The Proposed Coastal Plan has now been refined and the final draft has been workshopped. M. Meehan stated that the Plan can now be notified but due to the Christmas period coming up he would like the Plan to be notified on 25 January with the closing date for submissions being 21 March 2016. M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

*That Council approve the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan for public notification on 25 January 2016, and the accompanying Section 32 Evaluation Report, in accordance with Section 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.*

*Carried*

##### **5.1.3 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON SEA LEVEL RISE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this is a follow up on the November 2014 report. He stated that no maps were prepared for this region as there is no LiDAR information that supports it. M. Meehan advised that the PCE has made several recommendations to central government which he outlined to the meeting. M. Meehan stated that when council has constructed rock walls, they can be added to in the future with regard to sea level rise and climate change predictions. He stated that there are communities around the region that are facing erosion issues irrespective of climate change. M. Meehan advised that the erosion issue at Neils Beach is linked to the mouth of the river not supplying the sediment that it was supplying to the southern area because of a shift in the river mouth following a flood event in December 2010. Cr Birchfield stated that he has read the PCE's report and he disputes a lot of

the content as some content is inaccurate and they are only guessing. Cr Birchfield stated that Hon Bill English has stated that Government will not budget for speculative costs as it is only speculation what sea level is going to do. Cr Birchfield agrees with Hon Bill English and stated that sea level rise is only speculation. Cr Archer stated that he believes sea levels are rising, but feels we should focus on guidance and advice on how to deal with the communities in areas that are under some threat. Cr Ewen stated that he has lived at Rapahoe for 40 years and he has noticed changes in this coastal community with sea level changing.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.4 ENVIRONMENT AOTEAROA 2015**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that through Statistics New Zealand and MfE, the Government is reporting on the five key areas: air, atmosphere and climate, fresh water, land and marine and biodiversity, with the idea to get a national picture on what is happening in these different spaces. M. Meehan advised that every three years a whole report is put together and combining all areas into one overall report to show the state of environment over the five areas. M. Meehan stated that there is also very good information on the LAWA website. M. Meehan stated that there may be worsening water quality in some lowland rivers in other regions but as far as this region goes; we are doing quite well and either maintaining or enhancing water quality.

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

*Carried*

#### **5.1.5 FEEDBACK ON LGNZ POSITION ON RMA REFORM**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. M. Meehan advised that a draft response was circulated to councillors and no changes were made. This was then forwarded on to LGNZ. M. Meehan stated that most of the changes suggested by LGNZ are supported. M. Meehan spoke to this report in detail. M. Meehan advised that council supports the removing of the ability to appeal to the Environment Court on Plans initiated under the RMA. He stated if this is done right then appeals to the Environment Court can be avoided except on points of law.

**Moved** (Clementson / Challenger) *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

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

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised this is the first report for the coming season.

**Moved** (Robb / McDonnell) *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that 11 non notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. He advised that three changes for reviews of consent conditions were granted and four notified or limited notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. C. Ingle reported that six submissions on Westland District Council's application for the Hokitika sewage oxidation ponds consent application were received with five submitters wishing to be heard in regard to their submissions.

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

*Carried*

**5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that 120 site visits were made during the reporting period. He stated that dairy farm inspections are being carried out with the focus on the non-compliant farms from the previous year. M. Meehan advised that the whitebait season is now finished and inspections will be carried out to ensure that whitebait stands have been removed. M. Meehan reported that one formal warning was issued; three infringement notices and one abatement notice were issued during the reporting period. M. Meehan advised that enquiries are ongoing regarding the truck washing facility in Westport. M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield)

- 1. *That the December 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. *That the bonds for RC03181 is released.*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

J. Douglas passed on Ngai Tahu’s thanks to council for their mahi and guidance over the year and also for the consultation that has been done this year.

Cr Ewen wished everyone well for the Christmas and New Year period.

Cr Ewen suggested that a letter of congratulations is sent to Maureen Pugh to congratulate her on her entrance into Parliament.

The meeting closed at 11.33 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date