

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 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, arrived 10.59), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, N. Clementson, J. Douglas, F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 20 October 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Birchfield commented that the permit for the Okuru Quarry has been granted.

PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed Paul Madgwick, Susan Wallace, Marie Mahuika-Forsyth and Rachael Forsyth from Makaawhio Runanga who addressed the meeting. Mr Madgwick stated that they are concerned about the Schedule 2 wetlands in the Maori reserves at Makaawhio (Jacobs River) and Mahi Tahī (Bruce Bay). Mr Madgwick's concern is that the Schedule 2 wetlands in South Westland have been arbitrarily drawn over the Maori reserves. He refers to these as scraps, as this is all the land that was left to them in 1860. Mr Madgwick explained the exact location of the areas he is concerned about; he gave a history of the area. Mr Madgwick stated that the loss of the wetlands is theft by stealth. He stated that he knows that DoC did not check this land but inspected the wetland areas by car. Mr Madgwick stated that Makaawhio had an initial meeting with M. Meehan and DoC but he feels this matter needs to be seen in context in view of swamps and wetlands in and around Bruce Bay as this is a huge area. Mr Madgwick stated that the wetlands within this area that are in the Maori reserve are very small. He feels that DoC have a lot of area on top of what is the World Heritage area and now they want the Maori reserves as well. Mr Madgwick stated that Makaawhio sympathise with all landowner who affected by Schedule 2 wetlands.

M. Meehan advised that when Council visited affected wetland landowners they didn't visit the Maori reserve land but council is now having this discussion. M. Meehan advised that he has talked to the DoC Ecologist to have the Maori reserve land removed but DoC have said this land is wet, it is wetland but they have not said whether or not they would support its removal. M. Meehan spoke extensively on the history of the wetlands case in the Environment Court. S. Wallace stated that Makaawhio have enjoyed a close relationship with DoC but they have been excluded completely from this process. S. Wallace spoke extensively on this matter. M. Meehan gave an overview of how the wetland areas were identified. F. Tumahai also expressed his disappointment in DoC over this process in view of the close association they

have had over the years. F. Tumahai stated that Makaawhio are aware that this land can be developed in the future but the requirement for consents is now an extra encumbrance that no one needs. He stated that the Maori reserves were set aside for future generations to be able to get an income from. Councillors asked questions of P. Madgwick. Cr Archer stated that the Environment Court and appeal process cost Council a huge amount of money.

S. Wallace stated that Makaawhio did not submit on this as they were not aware that this area was identified. She feels that Makaawhio were denied the opportunity to submit because of this omission and this process is unfair. S. Wallace stated that there is a moral obligation in terms of relationships; she stated that DoC has failed to adhere to Section 4 of their Act which requires DoC to take on board the special relationship with Ngai Tahu and to consult with them. She feels in view of the lack of consultation this would make for a strong case should further litigation be required. C. Ingle advised that he and M. Meehan are going to put to Council, in the New Year, a schedule of those areas listed as wetlands that need to be removed from the Plan. C. Ingle advised that DoC might consider providing an ecological report on the wetlands of concern to Makaawhio with a view to putting them forward to be removed if they are not ecologically significant. C. Ingle suggested that both a cultural and ecological assessment could be arranged at the same time. Cr Robb stated that although this process has been legal, morally it is wrong. M. Meehan advised that the new Director of DoC, Mark Davies, is due to meet with him next week to discuss wetlands and the case to date. Further discussion took place. P. Madgwick thanked Councillors for their time.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the Red Jacks and Coal Creek rating district meetings during the reporting period. He assisted with the opening of one tender during the month.

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 LGNZ are seeking feedback on changes in relation to the RMA reforms. He stated that some good work has come out of this so far as Buller District Council is currently looking at their District Plan review and they have incorporated the same format as in our RPS and Land and Water Plan. M. Meehan stated that it is good to see them following suit and he hopes that the other district councils will also follow suit. He highlighted various other changes that are being considered including timeframes for getting RMA plans through the process. Feedback is required by the 13th of November. M. Meehan stated that he will be sending information out to councillors in the next day or so. Cr Archer commented that it is very pleasing to see the section on appeals on only points of law. He stated that this will be most beneficial to councils. M. Meehan agreed with Cr Archer and stated that the changes are going to make a big difference in the timeframes for getting plan changes and decisions through.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that this is a brief report due to the short turnaround of three weeks from the last council meeting. He reported that four resource consents were granted during the reporting period. C. Ingle reported that submissions close tomorrow for the Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Moved (Clementson / Robb) *that the November 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 32 site visits were made during the reporting period. He reported that two abatement notices were issued during the reporting period. M. Meehan reported that both of the recommended for release are surety bonds.

Moved (Clementson / Birchfield)

- 1. *That the November 2015 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. *That the surety bonds for RC12186 and RC12007 are released.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

It was agreed that a letter would be written to Makaawhio to thank them for this morning’s presentation to Council and to confirm that Council supports their concerns with regard to schedule 2 Wetlands.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

That a letter is written to Makaawhio to thank them for their presentation to Council today, and to confirm that Council supports their concerns with regard to schedule 2 Wetlands.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.34 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date