

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 JUNE 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

P. Ewen (Chairman), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, N. Clementson, J. Douglas.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Planning & Operations Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

(Ewen / Birchfield) *That the apologies from S. Challenger and T. Archer be accepted.*

*Carried*

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

There was no public forum.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Cr Ewen welcomed Mark Davies, Regional Director for the Department of Conservation to the meeting. Mr Davies addressed the meeting and advised that his presentation is titled "Battle for our Birds" (BFOB). He stated that nature has not done us the greatest turn and we are now seeing the impacts of climate change around the country. He stated that the fruiting and seeding that occurred over the summer is a repeat of what scientists call the podocarp and mast years. Mr Davies advised the last mast was in 2014, he stated that historically masts occur on a 5 – 7 year cycle. Mr. Davies stated at this time it was expected that the next mast would not be for a few years but it is now looking as though this year's mast will be on an even greater scale. He stated that the first real BFOB's programme was in the winter and spring of 2014. Mr. Davies stated that some of his long serving staff has not seen podocarps fruiting on this scale in Kahurangi, South Westland and the central Southern Alps. Mr. Davies explained how this impacts on rodents including mice, rats and stoats and then in turn on the native birds that inhabit the forests. He stated that native birds are at the nesting and fledgling stage which is their most vulnerable stage and therefore to do nothing is not an option. Mr. Davies stated that Government has been very supportive with an extra \$20.6M in the budget for BFOB. He advised that approximately 50% of this will be spent on the West Coast. M. Davies advised that DoC have gone into partnership with Ospri to ensure the programme is completely integrated. He explained how the BFOB's programme will be affected. Mr Davies stated that the total programme is 387,000 hectares which accounts for around 20% of the total conservation land across the West Coast. Mr. Davies spoke in detail and answered questions from Councillors. Cr Robb stated it is very good to see the strong working relationship between DoC and Ospri. Cr Ewen thanked Mr. Davies for his presentation.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 May 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. REPORTS**

#### **5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a further submission has been made on the proposed Buller District Plan Changes.

M. Meehan reported that the Lake Brunner Ministry for the Environment Fresh Start to Freshwater Project has now been closed off. He stated that part of the project gave farmers the opportunity to apply for funding to undertake fencing and planting work in the catchment. A community group was formed with \$20,000 granted to them to go towards plantings at four sites within the catchment. M. Meehan stated this was a very good positive step for the community. M. Meehan stated that this funding led to around 54 kms of fencing and 26,400 plants being purchased. M. Meehan reported that the small amount of unspent funding was the result of one farmer being unable to complete work by the deadline. M. Meehan stated that during the time the project was running the TIL (Trophic Level Index) was met with water quality improving. Significant improvement for ammonia in the Crooked and Orangipuku Rivers was also achieved. M. Meehan stated that there is a lot of positivity to take out of this project with the landowners being the key party. He stated that the project would not have been as successful without their buy in. M. Meehan stated that there were a lot of indirect benefits from the project, it brought people closer together; and led to better collaboration. He stated that this project is a great model which could be used again if there was a water quality issue in another catchment. Cr Robb asked if the results are recent. M. Meehan confirmed that these are the latest results, from the end of last year. M. Meehan responded to Cr Ewen's query and advised Cr Ewen that fencing issues are a small gain, with the major gains being the improvement in water quality in the lake as a result of the good use of fertiliser and good effluent management.

**Moved** (Clementson / Robb) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

##### **5.1.2 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that it has been a wet month with May being the wettest May in Hokitika, since 1887. M. Meehan stated that given the amount of rain, there were no major flood events during this time. M. Meehan advised that the Waiho River only went through one alarm.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

##### **5.1.3 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised this is the first air quality report for the winter season. He stated that there is yet to be an exceedance of the NES for air quality in Reefton this winter. M. Meehan advised that due to the sale of the current monitoring site, a new site will be set up at the Reefton Area School. He stated that an agreement is currently being sought with the Ministry of Education for this new site.

**Moved** (McDonnell / Birchfield) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

**5.1.4 WEST COAST MINERALS REPORT**

N. Costley spoke to this report and advised that this document was seen in its previous form as The West Coast Minerals Strategy. N. Costley stated that the West Coast Mayors and Chairs group adopted the document at their last meeting. Submissions that were made by 29 individuals. N. Costley stated that the main changes were the section of actions that will be overseen by the Mayors and Chairs Group and also contributions of the current operators and what they contribute to our community are highlighted in the document. N. Costley stated that although things have changed recently, minerals are still an important part of the West Coast. She advised that it is important to ensure that when people invest here they know what we are expecting, which is a fair return to our communities, workers living here, and companies investing in our local community. N. Costley advised that overarching it is important that people are operating in an environmentally responsible way. N. Costley stated that adoption of this document is being sought by all four West Coast councils along with Development West Coast. Once formal adoption is made, the document will be placed on this Council's and Development West Coast's website.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Clementson) *That Council adopt West Coast Minerals.*

*Carried*

**5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 11 non-notified consents have granted during the past month.

**Moved** (Robb / McDonnell) *That the June 2016 reports of the Compliance Group be received.*

*Carried*

**5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 121 site visits were made during the reporting period. He advised that staff are assisting in areas where there are compliance issues. G. McCormack stated that the end of the dairy season is close, with the season having been pretty good in terms of compliance. G. McCormack advised that his staff are now looking ahead to next dairy season and staff are working on new ways to improve IT systems and farm visits. G. McCormack reported that one Abatement Notice was issued and two mining work programmes were received.

**Moved** (Clementson / Ewen) *That the June 2016 reports of the Compliance Group be received.*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Clementson asked if there had been any resolution on the tree planting that the Karamea School did on the stopbank in this area. M. Meehan responded that the school were apologetic regarding this planting as they did not realise that there is a bylaw in place preventing planting on stopbanks. M. Meehan advised that the school have found an alternative planting area for the plants. He advised that the stopbank in this area is going to become redundant in the near future. M. Meehan advised that the school and the rating district will work together on this.

The meeting closed at 11.07 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date