

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MARCH 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, T. Archer, N. Clementson, S. Challenger, J. Douglas. F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 February 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that it has been very quiet. He said he did not receive any phone calls.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that staff are working on the final stages of a draft plan for notification on the Proposed Land and Water Plan Change. This will be brought to the May RMC meeting. M. Meehan reported that MfE is seeking feedback on A New Marine Protected Areas Act (MPA). He advised that the new MPA Act is generally positive. M. Meehan advised that staff have lodged a short submission in support in principle and have included concerns on how the new Act would affect the West Coast marine area.

Moved (Robb / Archer)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council approves the attached submission on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Act.*

Carried

5.1.2 SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2015

M. Meehan spoke to this report and explained that this Bill is the second phase of the Government's resource management reform programme. He outlined the various minor changes to the RMA, Conservation, Reserves, Public Works and EEZ and Continental Shelf Acts. M. Meehan advised that the Bill aims to create a more efficient and equitable resource management system. He highlighted the main changes in the Bill and explained them to the meeting. M. Meehan advised this submission is a joint submission prepared by all four West Coast Councils. He stated that the submission has now been through the Westland and Grey District councils meetings and will go to the Buller meeting next week. M. Meehan took Councillors through a few minor changes to the submission.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

That the West Coast Regional Council approves the attached joint submission prepared by the four West Coast Councils on the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, with the changes as discussed.

Carried

5.1.3 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that there were two moderate floods in the Hokitika River during the reporting period. M. Meehan reported that the Waiho River went through one of its alarms. This was associated with one of the heavy rainfall events affecting Hokitika as well.

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

Carried

5.1.4 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that in the months of January and February there was only one sample that went into the > than 550 E coli category, this was at Rapahoe at Seven Mile Creek. He stated this followed a moderate result in the previous sample which coincided with a minor rain event.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that the report reflects the relatively low amount of consenting demand in the region at the moment. C. Ingle reported that four site visits were made and only seven non notified resource consents were granted during the reporting period. He reported that one notified or limited notified resource consent was granted for the Grey Base Hospital for discharge to air. C. Ingle reported that the hearing of submissions for Westland District Council's application for the Hokitika sewage oxidation ponds consent application was postponed and is now being heard today by an independent Commissioner, at the request of the applicant.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the March 2016 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that 70 site visits were made during the reporting period, mostly to mining and dairy farms. He stated that good compliance is being achieved. M. Meehan stated that the complaint regarding river diversion in the Waimea Creek is being followed up on. M. Meehan reported that two formal warnings were issued and two abatement notices were issued which relate to the complaint at Waimea.

M. Meehan reported that Roa Mining Company Ltd (RMCL) entered into an Alternative Environmental Justice process following Council laying charges in the Environment Court. M. Meehan stated that the charges related to the deposition of sediment on the bed of a waterway. He stated that an Environment Court facilitator took the matter through the restorative justice process with the outcome of the process

resulting in the production of a number of reports containing options on what to do. M. Meehan stated that enhancement work, including riparian planting gave a better result for the catchment and at the end of this process Council then withdrew the charges. M. Meehan advised that this is the second time Council has used the Environmental Justice process successfully.

M. Meehan advised that he received confirmation yesterday that a further case that was going through the restorative justice process has been completed. He stated this involved an illegal discharge; the offending company has now made a donation to the local community and has met Councils costs. Council has now withdrawn the charges. M. Meehan stated that the restorative justice process is working well.

M. Meehan advised that a recent mediation process will involve Council developing a protocol for the cleaning out of drains in the Kongahu rating district.

M. Meehan advised that following a complaint relating to a truck washing site in Westport, inspections and evaluations of other truck washing sites around the region has occurred.

Cr Ewen spoke of historic matters relating to Roa Mining Company Ltd. Cr Robb stated that Roa Mining had not been prosecuted during the last nine years that he has been on Council.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *That the March 2016 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr McDonnell stated that the section on stock exclusion from water bodies in the Discussion Document, Next Steps for Freshwater, is going to make things very difficult for dairy farmers. Cr McDonnell stated that the 1 metre wide and 30 cm deep rule for by a waterway is going to impose extra costs on West Coast farmers. Cr McDonnell feels that as a Council we should respond as it is not a good fit for West Coast conditions. M. Meehan advised that these are the potential changes to the Freshwater NPS and part of the proposed changes. He stated that information from the Land and Water Forum and the Dairy Accord has been built on these changes and there is a proposal to have stock exclusion rule in the NPS. Cr McDonnell stated that this comes into force in July 2017. M. Meehan stated staff are currently preparing information for Council on the new NPS. He stated that Local Government are preparing a submission on behalf of the sector. M. Meehan advised that WCRC may be neutral on this but would point out the practicalities of actually making it happen. He advised that Westland Milk Products have pointed out of the West Coast issues to the people who are making these decisions. Cr Robb stated that he had a discussion with Hon Nick Smith at the Lake Brunner event, and the Minister is quite aware of West Coast issues. Cr Robb stated that the Minister is happy with the work council is doing with freshwater management and it is important that we are clear and stay on top of this as the process goes through. Cr McDonnell stated that there have been meetings about this in every area of the country except for the West Coast and he is concerned about this. Cr Archer stated that it is important for anyone who has concerns about this to put in a submission before the 22nd of April.

The meeting closed at 11.11 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date