

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

(Archer / Challenger) *That the apologies from Cr Robb and F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Ewen) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 17 February 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Clementson reported that he has fielded a few questions in relation to the Buller River flood report. He also received a phone call from a concerned person regarding the degradation of water quality at Marrs Beach catchment. Cr Clementson stated that he would make contact again and advise the caller that a working group is going to be formed to work through the causations of the poor water quality in this catchment. Cr Archer stated that the estuary in this area is huge.

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 LETTER TO WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF PLAN CHANGE 7

S. Jones spoke to this report and advised that Westland District Council (WDC) made the decision to withdraw Plan Change 7 (Managing Fault Rupture Risk in Westland) in January 2017. She advised that Council drafted a letter in response to this decision which was circulated to Councillors for their comments. M. Meehan advised that changes were made to the letter once Councillors had provided their comments. M. Meehan stated that Council received funding from central government to carry out

cost benefit analysis work on behalf of the community. He stated that this work will be carried out by Tonkin & Taylor Ltd and work commenced last week. Discussion took place. Cr Archer stated that he is concerned about how this letter will be received by WDC. M. Meehan advised that the letter highlights Council's concern that the decision is inconsistent with the RPS and natural hazard management throughout New Zealand. He stated that this is an opportunity to work with the Franz Josef community, to use as a master planning exercise for Franz Josef. Discussion ensued. Cr Ewen stated that the epicentre of a major earthquake may not be at Franz Josef, and it could be anywhere along the 500 kms of the alpine fault. He stated that if WDC wants to withdraw Plan Change 7 that is up to them. Cr Birchfield stated that Council should not interfere with what WDC does and he feels that this Council should not appeal their Plan. Cr Challenger agreed with Cr Birchfield, and stated that it is important that the Franz Josef Working Group is in place and that Council takes note of recommendations that come out of the Tonkin & Taylor report. M. Meehan advised that Tonkin & Taylor is going to do cost benefit analysis work and this will be an opportunity to have proper conversations with government, NZTA, MfE and the Ministry of Tourism about the future of Franz Josef and its community. Discussion took place on WDC's oxidation ponds. M. Meehan advised that Council has given WDC a long time frame to deal with their oxidation ponds, WDC has until April 2018 to have a fully commissioned system. M. Meehan advised that this time frame will allow WDC to undertake public consultation through their annual plan and to tap into the work being done by Tonkin & Taylor over the coming months.

Moved (Challenger / Birchfield)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That the Committee agrees to send the letter as drafted.*

*Against
Crs Archer & Ewen
Carried*

5.1.2 CLEAN WATER – 90% OF RIVERS AND LAKES SWIMMABLE BY 2040'

S. Jones spoke to this report. She advised that currently staff are looking at the detail of the implications of the changes to the NPS for freshwater management will be for Council. S. Jones stated that the target is 90% of rivers and lakes being swimmable by 2040, these are identified on swimmability maps, with the state of water within each of the regions shown. S. Jones stated when Minister Smith visited Council last week he explained that water quality for this region is at 99% at present but he advised that government will still be looking for an improvement in our water quality to ensure that overall the whole of New Zealand meets the 90% target. S. Jones advised that Council needs to set out in writing by October what targets it will try to achieve and how this will be done. She stated that staff will work through this and bring a paper back to Council outlining the way forward for this. S. Jones reported that the government has made a \$100M fund available, which is available for regions to look at specific projects for areas that need improvement. She advised that discussions are underway with DoC and the district councils to ascertain what projects might be considered for this region to ensure that some of the funding is obtained.

S. Jones advised that staff are also looking at the summary of stock exclusions regulations that the government is proposing to introduce. She advised that there have some positive changes to the regulations with the government now making it clear that the exclusions only relate to permanently flowing waterways and not intermittently flowing waterways. S. Jones advised that staff are discussing what more can be done in the region to improve water quality and it is likely that a councillor workshop will be held later in the year on this. Cr Archer stated that when it comes to making a draft submission on the NPS, it would be helpful to have clear evaluation of the new NPS compared to the old NPS and what the scientific evaluation of the two are. Cr Archer stated that he wants to be satisfied that there is not an adverse effect in the new NPS in particular to faecal coliforms. Cr McDonnell stated that it is important that the farming community is informed via newsletters that the changes to the NPS with regard to the stock exclusion regulations before April so that farmers have the opportunity to submit by 28 April. Cr McDonnell stated that some farmers may have issues around wetlands that may make the changes untenable for some. Cr Birchfield stated that practically, he can see a lot of places where this is will not work very well especially in areas where there are gravel fans and where the creek is continually moving. He stated that trying to maintain a fence in this environment would be very difficult and it will impact on staff that have to police this situation. Cr McDonnell stated that it is important that Council always has the discretion to put in a management plan for those farmers who cannot quite meet the requirements. M. Meehan advised that feedback from the Regional Sector

Group is that it would be nice to implement the NPS without further changes. He stated that staff will continue to work through this process and report back to Council. M. Meehan advised that he will be meeting with the Chief Executive of Westland Milk Products Ltd (WMP) shortly to discuss the NPS for freshwater further and to request that information is sent out to the farming community via WMP's newsletter. M. Meehan stated that the stock access to waterways rules applies to pigs, deer, dry stock and dairy support. M. Meehan advised that it is unknown what the effect of the NPS will be and it is unknown how many rivers are fenced off. He stated that WMP has done some work on this but they do not have a good gauge on what the impact on our region will be. Cr Archer advised that Minister Smith stated that there is an expectation that there will be a revised regulation for air quality around the middle of this year.

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

Carried

5.1.3 PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

M. Meehan spoke to this report in R. Beal's absence. He advised that staff have completed a recommending report and are ready to proceed to a hearing. M. Meehan advised that the Biosecurity Act does not require Council to hold a hearing but having a hearing allows submitters to highlight any particular concerns to the hearing panel. M. Meehan advised the proposed plan has been peer reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with our neighbouring regions; feedback has also been sought from the Ministry for Primary Industries to ensure consistency with the national policy direction. M. Meehan advised that three or four members would be sufficient for the hearing panel. Cr Archer stated that having a hearing gives submitters the opportunity to have a say before a decision is made. Cr Clementson sought Councillors opinions on whether a hearing should be held. Crs Archer, Ewen, J. Douglas and Cr Challenger agreed. Cr Birchfield stated that a hearing shouldn't be held but he would go with the decision. Cr McDonnell stated that he would like to have a look at the submissions first to see what the general gist of the submissions is. M. Meehan spoke of the content of in some of the submissions. J. Douglas spoke of Makaawhio's concerns around aquatic toxins and poisons. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would set a date for the hearing and the hearing panel would then be appointed.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

- 1. That Council receives this report; and*
- 2. That the Chief Executive lobbies members of the committee to appoint a hearing panel once a hearing date has been set.*

Carried

5.1.4 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and took it as read.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.3 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that undesirable results have been recorded at Marrs Beach (Buller River) during the reporting period but results for Shingle Beach which is in the same catchment have been clear. M. Meehan advised that consideration is being given to forming a working group with stakeholders including BDC, and farmers in this catchment to work through the cause as it is proving difficult to pinpoint. He stated that trace work was done on samples last year which came back as inconsistent with a mix of avian, bovine, and human in the samples. M. Meehan advised that work that S. Jones is doing with her team could provide an opportunity to work on a freshwater project in conjunction with the district council. M. Meehan stated that in view of the heavy rainfall over the summer period the results are pretty reasonable. He stated that work done over the coming winter will hopefully improve results for next summer. Cr Archer stated that forming a working group is a good move and will hopefully provide a satisfactory outcome.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That a working group is formed with representatives from both councils and other local stakeholders to seek a satisfactory outcome.*

Carried

Cr Clementson stated that he has received phone calls from locals who have expressed their concerns about water quality in this area.

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 17 non-notified consents were processed during the reporting period. He reported that around 30% of whitebait stand resource consent applications have been granted. Cr McDonnell asked G. McCormack what is the trigger for a site visit as he noted in the report there were 17 resource consents granted but only two site visits made. G. McCormack responded that this is dependent on how much information is provided in the application. G. McCormack stated that he intends to carry out more site visits, for mining applications in particular, especially for virgin sites. He advised that these visits will be done with both the compliance officer and the consents officer to ensure that any issues are negated prior to the resource consent being granted especially with regard to compliance monitoring. G. McCormack stated that site visits for septic tank resource consents application are done at the pre-application stage. Cr Challenger expressed concern with the resource consent application for Nikau Deer Farm Ltd to cross through waterways at Rotomanu in view of the clean water proposal and excluding stock from waterways. G. McCormack advised that this is a dry stock farm and there are restrictions on the amount of crossings that can be done in a month, which are around four crossings. G. McCormack stated that the impact is minor. G. McCormack answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the March 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that 63 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period. He reported that four formal warnings were issued, one infringement notice, and two abatement notices were issued.

Moved (McDonnell / Birchfield)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the bonds for RC12021 Blakely Mining Ltd and RC-2015-0143Phoenix Mining Ltd are released.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

