

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), M. Crowe (Regional Director – Civil Defence arrived 10.50 am departed 11.33am), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 November 2018, be confirmed as correct, with the amendment below made.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Archer drew attention to the recommendations in section 5.1.2 of the minutes. Option one was chosen. It was agreed that recommendation two would be removed and recommendation three would become recommendation two.

3. PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed Corrina Gestro-Best, Sarah Brown and Margaret Woollett, members of the West Coast Accessibility Coalition to the meeting. C. Gestro-Best spoke to her presentation. She stated that the coalition was formed to raise awareness about the changes needed to make the West Coast more accessible for both residents and visitors. C. Gestro-Best explained their draft strategic plan to the meeting. She answered questions from Councillors. M. Woollett addressed the meeting and spoke of her experience living with a significant visual impairment and the progress she is seeking with regard to accessibility legislation. C. Gestro-Best requested that Council adopts the draft plan and she anticipates that it will be signed off at the Mayors, Chairs and Iwi forum early next year.

C. Gestro-Best answered questions. M. Meehan advised that a report could be brought to the February meeting with a recommendation included. He stated that most of the issues relate to district council functions but this Council may be able to assist via the Regional Transport Strategy.

J. Douglas and the Chairman thanked the coalition for their presentation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Clementson spoke to his report. He attended the Marrs Beach Working Group meeting and the Carters Beach community meeting held on 26 November.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to his report. He advised that the Punakaiki Masterplan is now available on line. H. Mills reported that 31 January has been confirmed as the date for the hearing for the Proposed Plan Change 1. H. Mills advised that a workshop on RPS appeals will follow on from today's meeting.

H. Mills advised that any feedback on the Submission on Draft Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan will need to be via email as there is not another Council meeting scheduled prior to the closing date for submissions of 4 February.

H. Mills reported that the first stage of the changes to the RMA Amendment Bill is due early in the New Year with the second stage of change, will look at broader changes to the RMA with a specific focus on freshwater. H. Mills advised that a further part of the change is giving the EPA enforcement powers under the RMA. The Minister is also funding (\$3.1M) a unit with MfE to undertake work in this space.

H. Mills reported that the review of the Drinking Water NES is about to be publically available.

M. Meehan advised that the Regional Sector Group was asked to provide feedback regarding the EPA being given enforcement powers and they felt that those powers should not be transferred to the EPA.

M. Meehan advised that this could prove to be problematic with regard to duplication, information sharing and referrals from members of the public to the EPA. M. Meehan advised that work will continue with MfE and the Minister on this matter. Extensive discussion took place with Councillors expressing their displeasure at this initiative along with the changes proposed to the Resource Management Act. J. Douglas agreed with Cr Archer's comments. Cr Robb also endorsed these comments.

H. Mills offered to forward the report on the Punakaiki Masterplan to Cr Challenger. Cr Challenger stated that the report for swimmability targets lacks the meaning of what each colour in the report means. H. Mills agreed to pass this information on to Cr Challenger.

Cr Ewen stated that the use of helicopters should be included in draft submission for the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan.

It was agreed that legal costs would be kept a track of for the RPS appeal.

Cr Clementson offered to be the elected representative for the Buller FMU, he was nominated by Cr Robb and seconded by Cr Archer.

H. Mills advised that there was a significant rainfall event on 8 and 9 November with five river alarms set. He stated that rainfall in the Hokitika catchment was up to 700 mms in two days which was a massive event. It was confirmed that civil defence was activated in Hokitika and monitoring was carried out in the Grey district. M. Crowe advised that impact assessment work was done following this rainfall event. Cr Ewen stated that this event was the second highest rainfall event at Rapahoe since the 1988 flood event.

Moved (Archer / Ewen)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That the Council approves the draft Terms of Reference for the Buller Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) Group.*
3. *That an elected representative (Cr Clementson) from the West Coast Regional Council (Buller constituency) be chosen to sit on the Buller Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) Group as per the Buller FMU Group Terms of Reference.*
4. *That Council approves the draft submission on the Draft Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan.*
5. *That Council approves the final regional targets for swimmable lakes and rivers to be made publically available.*

Carried

5.1.2 CONTACT RECREATION WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the reporting period has now been running for one month.

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

Carried

5.1.3 CIVIL DEFENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

M. Crowe spoke to this report. He drew attention to the staff changes in his report in the recovery and lifelines areas. M. Crowe advised that the draft version of the Hokitika Flood Plan was tested during the flood event of 8 and 9 November. He stated that this is very similar to the Buller Flood Plan.

Discussion took place on Provincial Growth Fund applications (PGF), fuel storage during a major event, economic recovery, roading, and mobile alerting. M. Meehan advised that there were some good announcement from the PGF relating to civil defence, particularly for communications. M. Meehan stated that in a major civil defence event such as the alpine fault rupture there will be huge implications for this region and the rest of New Zealand. M. Meehan agreed that planning is key and the work that M. Crowe is involved with the AF8 is picking up on a lot of this. He advised that this will be revisited via the PGF. M. Crowe advised that the West Coast Fuel Plan was adopted in July 2018 and this sits behind the National Fuel Plan. It was agreed that M. Crowe would circulate the fuel plan to Councillors.

M. Crowe answered questions relating to the recent nationwide test to emergency mobile alert system and advised that there was a huge increase in hits compared to last year's test with statistics and reach improving. M. Crowe answered further questions from councillors regarding mobile alert testing, he explained how this functions and answered questions relating to emergency warnings in general.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that four site visits were carried out, two non-notified resources consents were granted, two changes to consent conditions, and one limited notified resource consent were granted during the reporting period.

Moved (Robb / Challenger) *That the December 2018 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

H. McKay spoke to this report and advised that 75 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. She reported that 29 complaints / incidents were reported with 18 of these resulting in site visits.

H. McKay reported that two infringement notices were issued, four mining programmes were received and approved during the reporting period.

H. McKay reported that three bonds were received, and two bonds are recommended for release.

Cr Birchfield declared an interest in RC2014-0174.

H. McKay answered questions regarding work being undertaken outside of mining boundaries by consent holders. She advised that compliance officers keep an eye on this type of activity.

Moved (Robb / Archer)

1. *That the December 2018 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the \$6,000 bond belonging to RC2014-0174 Iron River Company Ltd and the \$45,000 surety bond belonging to Dunollie Coal Mines Ltd is released.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Douglas raised the matter of workshops being held in between Council meetings. She stated this sometimes inconveniences the media and public who might wish to attend. Cr Robb suggested that RMC workshops could be held before the RMC meeting starting at 10.00am if required. Cr Ewen and Cr Birchfield agreed with Cr Robb. It was agreed that today’s workshop would be held after the Council meeting, just for today, to avoid inconveniencing the media.

Cr Clementson thanked J. Douglas and F. Tumahai for their input to the RMC. He wished everyone present a Merry Christmas. He also thanked staff for their work this year. J. Douglas concurred with Cr Clementson.

The meeting closed at 11.43 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date