

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MAY 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 Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGY

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 April 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. There was no presentation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and stated that it has been a very quiet month with no meetings attended.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to this report and stated that there are no major implications for the West Coast with regard to Our Land 2018.

H. Mills advised that at the end of this month consultation papers will be released for the PCE Report on a Zero Carbon Act. He stated that the aim is to have a Bill introduced to Parliament in October with the Zero Carbon Act enforced in April 2019.

H. Mills reported that the final policy recommendation for the NES for Marine Aquaculture should be introduced to Cabinet in late 2018.

H. Mills reported that Councils across New Zealand are making good progress with the DoC Efficiency and Effectiveness Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. He advised

that WCRC has secured an Envirolink fund to develop significance criteria around biodiversity in this area.

Cr Birchfield stated that there is good evidence that the earth could be heading into another ice age. He stated that it is starting to become evident in the northern hemisphere with their severe winters. He stated that the Zero Carbon Act may become redundant when this hits the world.

Cr Archer asked H. Mills if there was an overall DoC Efficiency and Effectiveness Review, recognising their incredible slow delays in making decisions. Cr Archer spoke of ministerial decisions that have been held up for up to three years or more. Discussion took place on statutory timeframes M. Meehan agreed, and stated that central government put timeframes on local government to process things but they don't put it on themselves. M. Meehan stated that these issues were mentioned in the Productivity Report a few years ago.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 NPSFM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that this strategy forms the direction for staff to implement the NPSFM. H. Mills stated that he sees iwi as partners, moving forward. He stated that staff have talked to MfE about concerns iwi and Ngai Tahu have are they are now fairly comfortable with specific freshwater management units as originally proposed.

H. Mills answered questions from Councillors regarding boundaries, staff resources, timeframes and water quality. H. Mills advised that WCRC is the last Council to start this process. He also advised that the document is a guiding and aspirational document.

1. *That the report is received.*

2. *That the attached National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) Regional Implementation Strategy including the Progressive Implementation Programme be accepted and forms the direction and framework for staff to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*

3. *That staff apply to the Ministry for the Environment for an extension of time to 2030 for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

Carried

5.1.3 GRAVEL TAKE PROJECT

H. Mills spoke to this report. He advised that a report was commissioned from NIWA and this has revealed that gravel takes can contribute to coastal erosion. M. Meehan commented that this fits in with what Council has been working on with regard to gravel takes with the new charging regime, and more resources in this area. M. Meehan advised that the West Coast is at the end of a cycle of large scale events, such as the alpine fault and there is now very low recharge of sediment and gravel. He stated that there has not been a large scale region wide flood since 2010. M. Meehan explained the impact floods have on rivers as without floods there is not the recharge of sediment coming through and this impacts on gravel availability.

Cr Birchfield commented that the report is indecisive and he is concerned about restricting gravel takes as some communities need access to gravel. M. Meehan stated that the report looks closer at some rivers rather than restricting access and requires staff to take a closer look at those particular rivers. He stated that there will not be a major impact on any gravel takes.

Cr Archer stated that he cannot recall a report such as this one coming before Council on what may or may not have an impact on coastal erosion. He stated that the report allays concerns that some people might have in thinking that taking gravel out of the river is exacerbating coastal erosion. Cr Archer stated that just because a resource consent has been granted to take gravel that does not mean to say that those volumes of gravel have actually been taken.

Discussion took place on bed loads of rivers. H. Mills stated that he can supply the NIWA data to Councillors. Cr Challenger stated that the bed load carrying capacity of a river depends on velocity of water and this is theoretical. He stated that Council is receiving the report and is not stopping gravel extraction. H. Mills advised that there is plenty more work that can be done via Envirolink funding.

Moved (Challenger / Archer) *That the report is received.*

*Cr Birchfield Against
Carried*

5.1.4 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report. He stated that results for this season are very good with approximately 97% of all samples returned either in the low or very low risk range. H. Mills advised that the 3% that were moderately high are usually associated with high rainfall events. He stated that this is an excellent result and something that the West Coast should be proud of.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.5 HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

H. Mills spoke to this report and stated two flood alarms were triggered during month.

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

Carried

5.1.6 REGIONAL PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

R. Beal spoke to this report. It was noted that today is the closing date and there have been no appeals received.

Moved (Robb / Archer)

- 1. That the report is received.*
- 2. That Council publicly notifies the operative status of the Regional Pest Plant Management Plan 2018 – 2028 as per Section 77 of the Biosecurity Act 1993; and*
- 3. That Council withdraws the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy 2010.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report in H. McKay's absence. M. Meehan stated that it has been a quiet month but 10 new consent applications were received last week.

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

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that 57 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period with 30 of these being to dairy farms as it is now nearing the end of the dairy season. M. Meehan advised that progress is being made with matters relating to the clean up of a campsite at Bruce Bay and the discharge to land at Granity. He explained the ongoing issues with the discharge to water at Franz Josef.

M. Meehan answered questions relating to resource consent conditions in the Lake Brunner catchment.

Cr Challenger asked if Council is getting any closer to resolution with the issues in Franz Josef. M. Meehan stated that Westland District Council (WDC) have received funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to upgrade the system and they have received engineering advice. M. Meehan advised that Council has encouraged WDC to engage with Makaawhio and DoC around the consenting matters as this needs to be worked through first. M. Meehan advised that Council has seen a timeframe and he does not see any barriers to this as the funding is in place. Cr Ewen expressed concern about consistency and he stated that other parties do not get the leniency that he feels WDC has been given. He spoke of dairy farmers and goldminers who have had accidental discharges and they have been prosecuted. M. Meehan responded that an abatement notice was applied immediately once Council became aware of what was happening. M. Meehan advised that he has asked staff to follow the enforcement policy to produce a report on where to from here. He stated that the first step was applying an abatement notice to stop and to ensure that this is followed. M. Meehan stated that Council is going through the process of looking at the non-compliance. He stated that a determination is yet to be made on what further enforcement action will be taken. Cr Ewen stated that his main concern is consistency. M. Meehan answered questions about stock in waterways and advised that further changes to these rules are expected via the Freshwater NPS and the change in government. He stated that once the rule changes are made, then the new rule changes will be applied across the region. Cr Archer asked if there has been an outcome for the complaint at Cats Creek. M. Meehan advised that the investigation is ongoing. M. Meehan answered questions regarding herd numbers and dairy shed effluent discharge rules. J. Douglas advised that Makaawhio have been in discussion with Westland District Council regarding the culturally insensitive discharges into the Waiho River. She offered to keep Council informed of progress in this area.

Moved (Challenger / Archer)

1. *That the May 2018 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
 2. *That the bonds for Madden Mining Ltd, TLD Investments Ltd and Alan Spriggs are released.*
- Carried*

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen asked if there in an update regarding the Elect Mining Ltd incident at Ross. M. Meehan advised that charges were laid in the Court and the process is ongoing.

The meeting closed at 11.26 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date