

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2021, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.55 A.M.

PRESENT:

S. Challenger (Chairman), A. Birchfield, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, J. Hill, L. Coll McLaughlin (via Zoom), J. Douglas via Zoom, F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

H. Mabin (Acting Chief Executive), C. Helem (Acting Consents & Compliance Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), J. Armstrong (Te Tai o Poutini Project Manager) via Zoom, N. Selman (Financial Consultant) via Zoom, T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

WELCOME

Cr Challenger opened the meeting with a Karakia.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

Carried

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cr Cummings declared an interest in matters relating to Punakaiki as he is ratepayer in this area.
Cr Challenger declared an interest in some of the resource consents that were granted during the reporting period.

PUBLIC FORUM, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There was no public forum.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Moved (Cummings / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 14 September 2021, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Challenger reported that he has a quiet month since the LTP has been adopted.

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND RESOURCE SCIENCE REPORT

J. Armstrong spoke to this report. She drew attention to the invitation from the South Westland Freshwater Management Unit Group's (SWFMU) to hold the December meeting in Fox Glacier. Cr Challenger stated that members of the SWFMU are keen to show their work on freshwater in their area, and how they would like to manage this going forward. It was agreed that the meeting would be held in Fox Glacier in the morning, attendees would travel down the night before and site visits would be arranged.

J. Armstrong reported that minor changes were made to the final submission on Intensive Winter Grazing Regulations. She drew attention to the track changes in appendix 2 of her report and advised that the submission has now been submitted.

J. Armstrong advised that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions report has been received. She highlighted the statistics from the West Coast. Cr Cummings stated that he finds it hard to believe that the West Coast is higher for nitrous oxide than Nelson and Canterbury. Cr Cummings stated that he would like to know how this is worked out. J. Armstrong to follow up on this and to follow up on Cr Coll McLaughlin's concerns regarding emissions intensity.

Cr Challenger noted that the flood alarm on the Hokitika River has not been working for the past week. J. Armstrong agreed to follow up on this.

It was agreed that motion number 2 (a) would be amended to hold both meetings (RMC and Council) at Bruce Bay (subject to confirmation). It was noted that the SWFMU meeting could be held at Fox Glacier. It was noted that there have been extensive renovations being carried out at the Bruce Bay Marae and therefore it was agreed that J. Douglas and H. Mabin would work on venue options.

It is recommended that the Council resolve to:

Moved (Ewen / Magner)

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

Moved (Challenger / Magner)

2. a) *Accept the South Westland Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) Group's invitation to hold the December 2021 Resource Management Committee and Council meeting at the Bruce Bay Marae on 14 December subject to confirmation; and*

b) *Accept SWFMU Group's invitation to participate in a hosted site visit of South Westland's waterbodies and relevant areas on the following day, to assist with decision-making on the SWFMU Group's Recommendations, subject to being confirmed with the Bruce Bay Marae.*

*Against Cr Ewen
Carried*

Moved (Cummings / Magner)

3. *Agree with the updated staff advice in Appendix 1 about which national documents to submit on.*

Carried

5.1.2 TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN UPDATE

J. Armstrong spoke to this report. She advised that research work on natural hazards has been held up due to Covid as most of those engaged to carry out this work are based in Auckland and have been unable to get to the West Coast. J. Armstrong advised that work is continuing with maps and overlays.

She advised that eight workshops will be held over the next six weeks to look at natural hazard content.

J. Armstrong reported that staff are keen to get as much work as possible done before the meeting on 16 December which is when the draft plan will be approved for publishing. J. Armstrong advised that the draft plan will be out for public feedback prior to notifying the proposed Plan going out in July 2022. This will then go through the formal submission process, with mediations and hearings held as required.

Cr Ewen commented on the Notice of Motion that Cr Birchfield put forward at the recent TTPP meeting and he congratulated those who voted against it but is disappointed there wasn't more support. He stated this was a re-look at private land and the lack of compensation to landowners. Cr Ewen spoke of his previous comments that the West Coast was sitting at 86% and will get to 90% of land 'locked up'. Cr Ewen spoke of the concerns the late Sir Michael Cullen had aired about this matter. He stated that there are tens of thousands of hectares of land involved and there is no compensation for these landowners. Cr Ewen stated that the issue of compensation for private land owners will not go away. He expressed concern about upcoming legislation and the angst among rural property owners regarding this issue. Cr Cummings agreed. Cr Magner agreed with Cr Ewen and feels that Council needs to make a stand on the impingement private property rights.

J. Douglas stated this has been a great stressor in the relationship with central government since the SNA and wetlands issues have come up. J. Douglas stated this is an expensive fight and Council should not give up.

Cr Birchfield stated this is a real worry and landowners are very concerned, as he feels it is likely that there may only be around 7% of land that will still have quite a few restrictions on it. Cr Birchfield stated that this time next year there will be a new TTPP committee in place and he will bring this matter up again then.

Cr Cummings drew attention to Local Government Review document contained in today's agenda, which highlights a lot of the problems that we are likely to have with the lack of land, lack of funding / rates and lack of people. Extensive discussion took place. Cr Birchfield expressed concern about funding with only 31,000 ratepayers.

Cr Challenger acknowledged the huge amount of work ahead for J. Armstrong's team.

F. Tumahai thanked J. Armstrong and her team for their work, he stated this is not personal and he is annoyed with the government. J. Douglas stated the Crown are repeating their past mistakes.

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings)

It is recommended that the Resource Management Committee resolve to:

1. *Note the report.*

*Against Cr Ewen
Carried*

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and took it as read. He outlined various consenting matters and offered to answer questions.

C. Helem reported that the Barrytown Joint Venture hearing has been adjourned until Friday 26 November.

Cr Cummings spoke of the phone calls he has received from property owners at Punakaiki who are concerned about possible river protection work. He is concerned about gravel extraction from the Punakaiki River as the NIWA report says not to take gravel from the Punakaiki, Pororari and Fox rivers. Cr Cummings is concerned that Council is issuing consents for gravel extraction in this area, and is concerned about possible litigation if Council is going against NIWA's advice. Cr Cummings stated that last time there was a problem in this area he repaired the groynes at his own expense using his own machinery. He stated there is now no sandbar in place and the groynes are getting washed over by the sea.

C. Helem advised that gravel extraction sites often depend on the locality of where the gravel is required. C. Helem advised in this case the gravel was used for DoC carpark at Punakaiki. He advised that the extraction area was assessed by a Council engineer who advised that this would not have any impact and could be replenished.

C. Helem provided extensive information relating to consent conditions for gravel extraction. Discussion took place and it was agreed that a precautionary approach should be taken to reports such as the NIWA report that have been commissioned by Council.

F. Tumahai asked for an update on the site visit in relation to the Mawhera consent. C. Helem advised that it is likely this is on hold awaiting further information regarding affected parties. F. Tumahai advised that Ngati Waewae will be opposing this. C. Helem offered to provide an update.

Moved (Ewen / Tumahai) *That the October 2021 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Helem spoke to this report and outlined compliance matters. C. Helem answered questions regarding legal proceedings. He confirmed that prosecution decisions are made on a case by case basis and it is WCRC that lays any charges.

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings) *That the October report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Challenger advised that he will not be present for the November meeting as he will be attending a management training course related to his profession.

The meeting closed at 12. 45 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date