

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL/ WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE HOKITIKA JOINT SEA WALL COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2015,
AT WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
WELD STREET, HOKITIKA, COMMENCING AT 4.06 P.M.**

PRESENT:

S. Challenger (Chairman), P. McDonnell, K. van Beek, M. Dawson, J. Butzbach (arrived 4.40 pm).

PRESENTERS:

L. Mason, R. Roberts, B. Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (WCRC Chief Executive), M. Meehan (WCRC Planning and Environmental Manager), P. Anderson (WDC Engineer), V. Goel (WDC Engineer), D. Inwood, T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

APOLOGIES:

T. Winter, A. Robb

WELCOME

S. Challenger welcomed all present to the meeting and introductions were made.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 16 February 2015 and 17 November 2014, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meetings."*

M. Dawson / K. van Beek – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

P. McDonnell asked what is happening with the groynes. C. Ingle responded that currently the groynes are covered by sand and this is a good thing as nothing is required until they are under threat from the sea. It was noted that operationally the groynes are now looked after by WCRC. Cr Dawson raised the matter of the E Class classification. C. Ingle responded that the proposal to include an E classification to extend the rating district went through WCRC's Long Term Plan process. C. Ingle advised this proposal was rejected by WCRC. He stated that submitters attended the hearing and voiced their concerns. C. Ingle stated that the main concern was with people up the valley, who are paying into their own rating districts, but townfolk are not being asked to contribute to the valley rating districts and the submitters felt that this was unfair. It was noted that it was not the dollar value that the submitters were worried about.

PRESENTATION

Rachel Roberts addressed the meeting. R. Roberts advised that she is presenting on behalf of Enterprise Hokitika and she is the current Chair of this organisation. R. Roberts stated that she believes everybody benefits from the seawall and the protection it affords the town and main street. She stated that it is shortsighted for those who live in the country to say that they don't benefit from the seawall. R. Roberts spoke of various community events that are held on and near

the beach that the whole community benefits from. She feels because everyone benefits from the seawall then everyone should pay into the rating district. R. Roberts stated that Enterprise Hokitika feels disappointed and let down that the proposed E Class was rejected as 95% of people weren't opposed to this or didn't bother to submit. R. Roberts stated that the \$30,000 for maintenance is spread over the A – D class's means there have had over a \$100 increase as the rating classifications are based on capital value. R. Roberts stated that Enterprise Hokitika has spoken to some members of the farming community and some of these people stated that the E classification should have gone further out into the valley. R. Roberts stated that she feels that the B classification is paying a disproportionate share of the maintenance rate. R. Roberts stated that Enterprise Hokitika is asking that the rate increase is suspended until Classes A, B, C and D are afforded the same consultation process as the proposed E Class. Discussion took place on the consultation process. Cr Dawson stated that this committee does not disagree with R. Roberts, as it was this committee that suggested that E class as they saw the need for the rating district to be extended. Cr Dawson stated that it is the regional council that sets the rates for this rating district. C. Ingle advised that this committee can only take a recommendation to the regional council. C. Ingle advised R. Roberts and her supporters from Enterprise Hokitika that they are welcome to make a presentation to the regional council. Cr Challenger stated that it would have been helpful if Enterprise Hokitika had of submitted on this matter at the Long Term Plan hearing. R. Roberts stated that if everyone benefits from the seawall then everybody should pay. C. Ingle advised that he would write to Enterprise Hokitika informing them of where to from here.

R. Roberts, B. Wilson and L. Mason left the meeting at 4.35 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that the revenue from rates is the same every year, for loan repayment. The opening balance in the rating district account is \$7,780.31 in deficit and the closing balance is \$40,222.50 in deficit. C. Ingle explained the rating system and rating classes to the meeting. He also explained the increase in capital value due to revaluations and stated that most of the town held its capital value quite well except C class.

C. Ingle advised that the \$126,500 from rates is spread across the four classes and the maintenance rate is \$30,000. The total for rates therefore went from \$126,500 to \$156,500 this year. Cr McDonnell stated state that with only \$126,500 going into the account each year, the rating district is going to be behind the 8 ball for a long time as the interest only comes down by \$4,000 a year. C. Ingle explained how the loan system works, that it will even out over time.

WORKS REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that \$225 worth of survey work was completed during the reporting period. W. Moen inspected the seawall on 7 August and \$25,000 worth of works were identified. This includes some slumping at the southern end of the old tie in area. C. Ingle advised that he and Cr Challenger viewed this area today. C. Ingle stated that this is the old area the new seawall was tied into when the seawall work was started. It is not part of the seawall that was built as it was pre-existing rock. Cr Challenger advised that there is no fabric under this rock and it is only one layer of rock but it is very big rock. C. Ingle stated that this area is not under serious attack from the sea. It was agreed that this work would be deferred unless the sea starts to attack this area.

Moved: ***"That the Works Report is adopted."***

S. Challenger / M. Dawson – Carried

RATE STRIKE

Discussion took place on the rate strike. It was noted that Council recommends a maintenance rate strike of \$30,000. C. Ingle explained the prudent reserve system to the meeting; a prudent reserve is for emergency work situations that come about as the result of a storm or rain event. He advised that most of council’s rating districts have a prudent reserve. A prudent reserve is yet to be set for this rating district. A speaker asked how much each groyne would cost to top up. C. Ingle advised this would cost around \$50,000 to \$60,000. C. Ingle stated that hopefully in two years’ time there will be enough money in this account to top up one of the groynes. It was noted that currently the groynes are covered in sand. It was agreed that the rate strike would be \$30,000 for the 2016/ 2017 financial year.

GENERAL BUSINESS

V. Goel circulated a letter from Rob Daniel from Hokitika Reserves and Environs Group. Mr Daniel is requesting that consideration be given to extending the seawall to Sunset Point. V. Goel advised that rock protection work was done in August at a cost of \$40,000; this was done to try to protect the road in this area. V. Goel advised the he trying to get a contribution from NZTA as the road needs to be protected in this area. He stated that this area is a very popular tourist area, with a lot of traffic including campervans over the tourist season. Mr Daniel’s group is now requesting that a rock wall is built from Sunset Point to join up with the regional council’s Seawall. V. Goel stated that if a report from WDC is required then he is happy to provide one. V. Goel stated that there is an old land fill site around this area but it is mainly construction hard fill. Cr Butzbach stated that work was done in this area a long time ago. V. Goel stated that the work that has been done in this area could link up with the seawall. Cr Butzbach stated that it doesn’t matter what is done in this area the sea will get it. Cr Butzbach asked if this work would be cost effective. V. Goel stated it would cost around \$300,000. Cr Challenger stated that this new wall would be about 300 metres long and it would need to be maintained as well. V. Goel acknowledged that there is a requirement for quite a lot of capital funds. Cr Butzbach suggested that a similar approach be taken with this work as was taken with the seawall and that the community is surveyed to see what they are agreeable to. C. Ingle explained the five options sent out to the community for the Hokitika seawall. Extensive discussion took place. C. Ingle advised that WCRC have Murray Hicks from NIWA visiting this area tomorrow to inspect the gravel spit area near the mouth of the Hokitika River. C. Ingle advised that it might be a good idea to wait until Mr Hicks reports back on his findings with this visit before a decision is made on any new capital works. C. Ingle asked the committee whether a further attempt at an E class classification should be made. It was agreed that the E class idea would not be revisited.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.28 pm.

Action Points:

- C. Ingle to write to Enterprise Hokitika regarding council recommendation.
- C. Ingle to email Murray Hicks report to all present at today’s meeting.

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Chairman

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Date