

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
**KARAMEA RATING DISTRICT**  
**HELD AT THE KARAMEA FIRE STATION**  
**ON 16 OCTOBER 2009, COMMENCING AT 1.03 PM.**

**PRESENT**

H. Macbeth, B. Neil, R. Barton, M. Macbeth, B. Langford, P. Sampson D. Simkin,  
S. Robinson, R. Lucas, J. Colville, W. Alber, G. Johnston, M. Watt, B. Jones, G. Volckman,  
P. Moynihan

**IN ATTENDANCE**

West Coast Regional Council  
T. Archer (Councillor)  
C.Ingle (CEO)  
Graeme Smart (NIWA)  
W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

**APOLOGIES**

Cr R. Scarlett, P. Langford, S. Lowe, R. Sampson

*H. Macbeth / P. Sampson - Carried*

**BUSINESS**

T. Archer opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff. T. Archer advised that this is a public meeting but only members of the rating district can speak. He asked if there are people present who are not ratepayers into the Karamea Rating District, they cannot speak, pass motions or second any motion. It was confirmed that all present are members of the Karamea Rating District.

**Moved:**            ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 2008, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

*M. Macbeth / R. Barton - Carried*

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2009. The opening balance was \$156,039.94 and the balance to 30 June this year is \$112,644.07. W. Moen stated that the drop in the account balance reflects the amount of works done over the last 12 months.

**Moved:**            ***"That the financial report for the 2008 / 2009 year be adopted".***

*H. Macbeth / M. Macbeth - Carried*

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## **WORKS REPORT**

W. Moen presented the works report for 2008 / 2009. He advised that a total of \$62,095.00 was spent during the reporting period this included cross section survey work. W. Moen advised that an inspection was carried out on 13 August 2009 with B. Langford and other members of the rating district committee. He advised that at that stage there were no maintenance works identified but he advised it would be prudent to allow \$20,000 for unforeseen maintenance.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2008 / 2009 financial year be adopted.***
- 2. That the 2009 / 2010 works proposals be approved.***

*G. Volckman / D. Simkin – Carried*

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

T. Archer read a letter from Quentin Jamieson and Angela Daish to the meeting. They own a property north of the Granite Creek Bridge. The letter outlines their concerns regarding the level of the bed of the creek which is rising. The letter writers have support from their neighbours in requesting the clearing of Granite Creek. They have asked that the Regional Council prioritise this matter. W. Moen advised the meeting that Granite Creek matter was discussed at the Kongahu Rating District meeting earlier today. W. Moen advised that the build up in the lower part of Granite Creek is causing problems in the Kongahu drainage scheme. W. Moen advised the meeting that he has met on site with DoC staff with a view to clearing out Granite Creek into the estuary. W. Moen advised that locally DoC is happy for the clean out to progress but head office of DoC in Hokitika has issues with heavy machinery going out into the estuary area. W. Moen advised that as a result of the Kongahu meeting C. Ingle is to liaise with DoC to progress the resource consent to clear Granite Creek. W. Moen advised that he has spoken with Buller District Council and he is hopeful that they will contribute financially to this project. C. Ingle clarified that the Kongahu Rating District agreed that C. Ingle would facilitate the gaining of a resource consent but they are yet to agree on how they are going to pay for the actual creek clearing work. He stated that if the community decides to clear Granite Creek this would likely be an ongoing expense and not a one off. B. Jones stated that the area below the bridge is regarded as a coastal marine area. T. Archer advised that DoC generally do not voluntarily offer to contribute towards the removal of sediment from slips that have occurred upstream on their land as they often consider this to be a natural event. W. Moen advised that Granite Creek bed levels were surveyed earlier this year and it will be re-surveyed again to see the effect of the recent flood event. W. Moen confirmed that the area to be surveyed would be from where the contour channel comes at the top bridge down to the mouth of the river, he advised there is two metres fall in Granite Creek.

P. Sampson asked how does the problem with Granite Creek relate to the constitution of the Karamea Rating District. He stated that the rating district finances the maintenance of existing works and new works (counted as capital works) were to be charged in a different manner. He asked if this is correct. B. Jones stated that Granite Creek is a separate issue as neither of the rating districts has ever done works in Granite Creek.

H. Macbeth stated that in the past works have been done in the Oparara, Karamea and Little Wanganui Rivers as part of this rating district but what B. Jones is saying is that maybe Granite Creek now needs to be included, but what P. Sampson is saying is that if there wasn't any existing works relating to Granite Creek then the local community would need to buy into this as if the project were new capital works. B. Jones stated that the

Granite Creek Bridge and road need to be considered, everyone uses the road and bridge and lots of people whitebait in this creek.

W. Moen advised that it is up to the rating district to decide whether or not they want to spend money on digging the bed of the creek. H. Macbeth stated he would like to see a model done so that if there was to be a lot of money spent then it needs to be worthwhile for a number of years afterwards. W. Moen advised that the only way to do this would be to have ongoing surveying done of the creek at regular intervals to ascertain how much gravel is coming down and this would be costly. R. Barton stated that this is a small community with limited resources. P. Sampson stated that the rating district has been in existence for over 20 years and in its current form it has served Karamea very well. He feels to change the constitution and move away from the current form will be fraught with danger. T. Archer suggested that this is a opportune time to resurrect the original agreement and circulate to everybody so that there is a clear understanding of what the rating district is set up to do. He stated that if there were any changes then that would be a matter for the community as a whole. H. Macbeth feels that this meeting cannot make a decision but this time next year there maybe more information regarding the consent process and who is going to pay for what. T. Archer stated that the letter tabled today is asking the Regional Council to prioritise the work to lower the stream of Granite Creek. He advised that nobody present would deny that the bed hasn't risen significantly over the years. T. Archer asked the meeting how they would like to deal with this letter. B. Jones stated that he would be happy with a declaration of support to the people in the area to support ongoing maintenance. B. Jones does not expect the rating district to fund these works. P. Moynihan stated that Granite Creek should be put in the too hard, too expensive basket. He feels the problem will be ongoing. T. Archer stated that the problems with Granite Creek might become financially unachievable.

H. Macbeth suggested that the Regional Council be asked to investigate options for the deepening of Granite Creek riverbed and to assist with resource consent issues along with advice on how to pay for this. H. Macbeth would like the community to be informed of progress in six months time. Discussion took place on who would be able to pay for this work. C. Ingle advised that the Kongahu Rating District has agreed to do another survey and to apply for a consent.

C. Ingle advised that sometimes he has applied for an Envirolink grant, if this is successful then G. Smart from NIWA may be able to assist with the investigation. C. Ingle asked G. Smart if he thought \$5,000 - \$10,000 was an accurate figure for this research. G. Smart agreed with this figure. C. Ingle advised that he and G. Smart would visit Granite Creek at the conclusion of today's meeting. (G. Smart has since advised hat he is fully committed and cannot take on any new work at this time).

P. Sampson gave a history of the mouth of the Karamea River, he stated that the mouth moves both north and south at different times. Discussion took place on the history of the mouths of rivers in the area. B. Jones stated that it might be better just to wait and see what happens with Granite Creek. C. Ingle confirmed that this approach has been taken for the last two years and that Granite Creek is not a new issue.

G. Volckman stated that the constitution of the rating district needs to be explained in the letter to Mr Jamieson and Ms Daish and to explain the work that the Kongahu rating district is doing to progress this matter.

**Moved:**            ***"That a letter of explanation be sent to Quentin Jamieson and Angela Daish advising them of the constitution of the rating district and informing them of progress from today's meeting".***  
*G. Volckman / P. Sampson - Carried*

## **RATES 2010 / 2011**

W. Moen advised that with the rate of \$25,000 previously struck for the 2009 / 2010 year, the recommended rate strike for 2010 / 2011 is \$25,000 therefore the balance in the

rating district account at the beginning of the 2010 / 2011 financial year will be approximately \$123,000. W. Moen advised that the reserves in the rating district account are dropping and the account needs to be maintained. H. Macbeth stated that he feels the rate strike needs to be slightly higher, he asked W. Moen what should the rating district account have in reserve. W. Moen responded that \$250,000 would be a good reserve. The risk of the stopbank overflowing was discussed. Various speakers spoke of the history of floods in the area. P. Sampson stated that the stopbank has never overflowed in 70 years. Discussion took place on the advantages of building up the kitty. W. Moen stated that it is wise to have a good reserve in place in view of the fact that the whole valley is included in the rating district. It was agreed that the rate strike would be increased to \$30,000.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

***"That the rate strike for the 2010 / 2011 financial Year is \$30,000 (GST Excl)."***

*P. Sampson / M. Macbeth – Carried*

P. Moynihan and D. Simkin are against the increase in the rate strike.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

T. Archer read out the names of the current committee, he asked if there was anyone who has moved out of the area or wishes to stand down. H. Macbeth suggested that the current committee be re-elected.

**Moved:** ***"That the present committee, namely:***

***Darryl Simkin***

***Brian Jones***

***Margaret Macbeth***

***Roger Barton***

***Bevan Langford***

***be retained as the committee for the 2009 / 2010 financial year."***

*H. Macbeth / P. Moynihan - Carried*

G. Volckman stated that there is no representation from the Little Wanganui or the Oparara areas. He feels that this might need to be considered as it was in the original constitution. W. Moen explained to the meeting the rotation policy for the rating district committee that the Wanganui Rating District has in place.

**Moved:** ***"That B. Langford be elected as the spokesperson for the 2009 / 2010 financial year."***

*R. Barton / D. Simkin - Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Cross Section Report**

W. Moen spoke to this report. He advised that there is a general build up at the area opposite the Karamea township, a section of depletion of gravel around the Last Resort, Karamea School and Camping Ground and a general build up of gravel upstream to the

overflow channel. This equates to an overall build up of 80,058 cubic metres of gravel over the last three year period. W. Moen advised that this is not a major concern.

H. Macbeth suggested that the regional council makes it easier to extract gravel. C. Ingle advised that the Land and Riverbed Plan process tied to do this but was appealed by DoC and we had to compromise. Landowners adjacent to the Karamea River can take 1000 m<sup>3</sup> per annum. Any person can take up to 300 m<sup>3</sup> per annum from the Karamea River, Oparara River, Granite Creek, Little Wanganui or Tidal Creek.

### **Rates Classification**

P. Sampson raised the matter of rates classification. He would like a review of his rates, he has built a new house and is concerned that the classification might not be correct and therefore he would like the boundaries to be clarified. P. Sampson wrote to W. Moen about this matter. W. Moen read P. Sampson's letter to the meeting. T. Archer asked how were the boundaries of the rating district established, W. Moen stated that he thinks this was done by general resolution and based on the contours and flow paths in the Karamea area. T. Archer asked how best to resolve this issue. C. Ingle stated that this matter is for Council to determine. W. Moen stated that the property was in one title originally and has now been divided into four lots and this is what has caused the problem.

T. Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.24 p.m.

G. Smart from NIWA addressed the meeting. He requested that those locals who were in Karamea during the flood event of 19 October 1998 demonstrate where the flood peaked. Mr Smart displayed a large map showing the valley at the peak of the flood, as predicted by the computer model he has been working on. Various members of the community passed on their knowledge of the flood event to Mr Smart.

### **Action Point**

- G. Volckman requested that the constitution is circulated to the rating district prior to the next annual meeting.
- W. Moen to report back to the rating district in six months time on progress to date with Granite Creek.
- Respond to letter from Quentin Jamieson and Angela Daish.