

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOWER WAIHO RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE FRANZ JOSEF COMMUNITY HALL ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2010, COMMENCING AT 9.45 AM.

PRESENT

C. Brooks, T. Bruning, R. Richards, L. Richards, N. Frendrup, R. Quaife, W. Costello,
J. Vyehaclif

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
B. Chinn, (Councillor), D. Davidson (Councillor)
S. Moran, W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

A. Millar

C. Brooks / R. Richards - Carried

BUSINESS

D. Davidson opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 15 October 2009, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

T. Bruning / R. Richards - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2010. He advised that the financial year started off with a deficit balance of -\$44,956.32. The account has a current debit balance of \$86,592.17.

Moved: ***"That the financial report for the 2009 / 2010 year be adopted".***

T. Bruning / C. Brooks - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. He reported that \$87,133.00 worth of works was carried out during the reporting period.

W. Moen carried out an inspection on the 6th of July and identified \$60,000 worth projected works to be carried out from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. This includes a 50 metre extension of the Canavans Knob retard at a cost of \$50,000 and a further \$10,000 for unforeseen works.

RECOMMENDATION

1. ***That the Works Report covering the 2009 / 2010 financial year be adopted.***
2. ***That the 2010 / 2011 works proposals be approved.***

T. Bruning / R. Richards – Carried

RATES 2011 / 2012

W. Moen advised that due to the deficit situation with the rating district's account he is recommending that the rate strike be \$100,000.00 to try to ease the financial situation. T. Bruning stated that he feels the rating district needs to keep going to try to get ahead. R. Richards asked what happened with the loan proposition, which was suggested as a way to get the account back into credit. S. Moran advised that there was no appetite from the rating district for the raising of a loan but what was asked for instead was a reclassification of the scheme. R. Richards expressed his concern regarding the build up of gravel around the Rata Knoll area. It was noted that there was a recommendation in last year's minutes to defer the survey work in the Rubbish Dump Stopbank to Rata Knoll area to this year. The cost of this survey and design work was \$16,000. T. Bruning feels that there is not enough money in the rating district account at the moment to do this work and they will just have risk not doing it and hope that nothing happens. Discussion took place on the risk of flooding and the previous history in this area. T. Bruning is in favour of putting this work off until the reclassification is complete as this will get more ratepayers paying into the rating district and make this work more affordable. He stated that the rating district is unable to get ahead financially and feels that only the bare minimum should be done in order to save money and get the account back into credit. W. Moen advised that the draft reclassification is almost ready to be sent out for comment. S. Moran advised that a meeting would be held in Franz Josef around the first or second week of November to discuss the reclassification. Cr Davidson asked W. Moen if the reclassification is likely to bring in more ratepayers to the rating district. W. Moen responded that he is only expecting some minor changes but doubts that it will make a major difference. S. Moran spoke of the discrepancy with the latest rates demand. This was caused by a mistake with Quotable Value Ltd and those affected will be issued with a new rates demand within the next few days. S. Moran advised that ratepayers in Lower Waiho might see an increase and those in the Canavans Knob rating district should not have been rated, as part of the Lower Waiho will see a decrease in their rates. R. Richards asked if they should be paying the same as last year. S. Moran confirmed that Lower Waiho rates should go back to what they were last year. It was agreed that W. Moen would check that people are being rated correctly. W. Moen stated that properties are rated on the information provided to Council by Quotable Value Ltd.

Discussion took place on the rate strike. R. Quaife stated that as land comes up for sale, the only person that can buy this land is the Department of Conservation because at the moment the rates are so high that nobody else is interested therefore the Department of Conservation gets a bargain and pays no further rates. Discussion took place on the costs of farming these days and the costs of having road access to these areas for milk tankers etc. S. Moran advised that river protection impacts on this rating district and it costs a lot of money to farm close to a river. R. Quaife spoke of the impact the river is having on farmland. S. Moran agreed that the Waiho River is a classic example of a river on the West Coast, near to farmland that is impacted by erosion. S. Moran acknowledged that land can be protected but the cost is an increase in rates to pay for protection and not everyone is happy with this. Extensive discussion took place on the rate strike and the benefit of having the account out of deficit. S. Moran advised that a decision on the rate strike needs to be made. He reminded the meeting that should they not come to a decision then Council set the rate strike for them. R. Richards stated that there hasn't been a flood for 20 years and the rating district is not in a very good position should there be a big one. N. Frendrup stated that he is not prepared to second the motion as he has never moved or seconded anything, as he is a new player on the block. L. Richards stated that N. Frendrup is a significant contributor to the rating district. Cr Davidson acknowledged that it is a hard decision

for residents to make in setting the rate strike but noted that it is better that they make the decision rather than Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: ***"That the rate strike for the 2011 / 2012 financial Year is \$100,000 (GST Excl)."***

T. Bruning / C. Brooks - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the present committee. It was agreed that N. Frendrup would be added to the committee.

Moved: ***"That the present committee be all those present namely:***

Neil Frendrup

Lorraine Richards

Robin Richards

Chris Brooks

Richard Molloy

Todd Bruning for the 2010 / 2011 financial year."

C. Brooks / R. Richards – Carried

Moved: ***"That Todd Bruning be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2010 / 2011 financial year."***

C. Brooks / R. Richards – Carried

It was agreed that R. Richards would stand in for T. Bruning as spokesperson should T. Bruning be away.

GENERAL BUSINESS

R. Richards asked W. Moen if there has been any progress with getting rock from the Tatare River. W. Moen advised that he has spoken to Wayne Costello regarding this matter and a response is awaited from DoC regarding this matter. W. Moen advised that there is a resource consent in place to look for the old hook groyne rock at Canavans Knob, this needs to be actioned within a year. W. Moen advised the N. Frendrup is looking at getting a resource consent for rock behind the moraine but he will need a minerals permit for this.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.35 am