

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TARAMAKAU RATING DISTRICT HELD AT MURRAY STEWART'S RESIDENCE ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 12.15 PM.

PRESENT

M. Stewart, A. Stewart, D. Groot, S. Langridge, M. Dyke, A. Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

I. Cummings, A. Birchfield, A. Robb (Councillors)

M. Meehan, W. Moen, T Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

J. Stewart

M. Stewart / S. Langridge - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Robb 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 10 October 2011, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

M. Stewart / D. Groot – Carried

It was noted that in the third line of matters arising in last year's minutes it should have read *"M. Stewart drew attention to page 2 of the minutes* not S. Langridge.

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen advised that the plan for the stopbank upgrade to raise the stopbank to a 400 year flood event standard hasn't been done because M. Stewart has a lodged a resource consent for proposed works on the other side of the river which could alter the design of the river. M. Stewart stated that his consent lapsed in 2009. W. Moen stated that he is reluctant to do any designs for this side of the river until the resource consent has been sorted out. M. Stewart stated that he had wanted to put consents for both jobs in at the same time so that the rating district could have worked together on this but it is too late for this now. He stated that option was there but it was never taken up.

A. Stewart stated that it would have been good to have the figures with the cross section information from the last ten years that he had requested from W. Moen. He stated this was difficult to interpret without the figures. Further discussion took place on historic cross section reports. It was agreed W. Moen would provide historic records of cross sections to M. Stewart so that long term trends on the river can be investigated.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to the financial report. He advised the opening balance was \$7,948.71 and the closing balance is \$44,658.18 in deficit but once the next rates installments comes into the account this will bring the account back into the black. Discussion took place on the pricing of the contract that is being undertaken at the moment. M. Stewart asked what is the difference in the increase of staff time as in previous years it has been around \$9,000 to \$10,000 and this year it is \$14,465. W. Moen responded that the increase is for work required on M. Stewart's resource

consent, as the rating district is an affected party in relation to this consent application and this has taken up extra time. M. Meehan advised that time has been spent on extra meetings and gathering reports for these meetings along with the costs involved in supervising contracts. M. Meehan offered to provide a break down of staff time costs.

Moved: "That the financial report for the 2011 / 2012 year be adopted".

M. Dyke / S. Langridge – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the financial report.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. W. Moen advised that there was \$88,000 worth of works done during the reporting period.

W. Moen advised that he carried out an inspection on 25 July 2012 with the committee and \$38,000 worth of works were identified but this includes \$20,000 for unforeseen maintenance. W. Moen advised that these works have since been completed. He has allowed \$20,000 for unforeseen maintenance, which is included in the \$38,000. W. Moen stated that the current year is only 1/3 the way through and quite a bit of money has already been spent.

M. Stewart stated that he is completely and utterly disgusted with the mowing of the bank. He feels it wasn't essential and it was organised and done before anyone knew about it. M. Stewart stated that usually it is discussed at a meeting before being done. W. Moen disagreed and stated that it was discussed and it was approved. S. Langridge stated that it was discussed when the current works were looked at and at the time he had stated that he was probably going to spray his bank. D. Groot stated that he had wanted the vegetation mowed but it didn't work and he stated that looking back it was a stupid idea. Extensive discussion took place on the mowing of the bank. S. Langridge stated that he is not in favour of spraying the riverside of the bank. W. Moen advised that council had taken over doing the spraying of the bank but he asked the meeting if they wished to take over this function again but he stated that in the past this has not worked well. M. Meehan advised that there is an asset that needs to be looked after and vegetation on this asset is an issue. He stated it can either be sprayed with a chopper or mowed but either way the vegetation needs to be removed. M. Meehan advised that most rating districts have a system in place for managing stopbanks. He asked the meeting if they wished to move back to the council being in charge of spraying the banks. D. Groot stated he would rather spray his own frontage. Robb advised the rating district to come up with a system so that the spraying is consistently done or Council will need to take over this function.

M. Stewart asked if a copy of the Taramakau rating district constitution could be found as this has a copy of the spraying regime in it. Cr Robb advised that these constitutions are now out of date and have been superseded by Asset Management Plans. M. Meehan advised that this rating district is a liaison meeting not a sub committee of council. Cr Robb advised the meeting that any decision that is made in this meeting could be overruled by Council at the council meeting. Cr Robb stated that at the end of the day council assets must be looked after. Cr Robb stated that generally rating districts work very well and he is not aware of a situation where council has overturned a rating district decision. W. Moen stated that if one farmer would commit to spraying the entire stopbank then council would supply the chemicals. Cr Robb asked each person to state what their preferred option would be. D. Groot stated that when he sprays his crops he would spray his frontage of the stopbank at the same time. A. Stevenson stated that farmers should not do this for free. D. Groot stated he would not do the whole stopbank. S. Langridge stated that he would need to do this twice to get a good result. W. Moen stated that helicopters make a good job and get good coverage. M. Stewart is in favour of everyone looking after their own frontage. M. Dyke stated he would spray his own frontage. A. Stevenson stated they would do their own spraying. S. Langridge stated that he gets a helicopter in anyway so he would stick with this method. D. Groot stated that W. Moen could tell the spokesperson when the spraying was due to be done and this could be passed on to the rest of the rating district via email. D. Groot said if the spraying isn't done then the helicopter comes in and does it. W. Moen stated he would rather deal

with one person to get this job done. M. Meehan advised that an agreed standard that the spraying is done to needs to be agreed upon. Costs were discussed. S. Langridge stated that it usually costs him \$2,000 to do his section. W. Moen suggested that Harry Spiers could be used to spray the stopbank. Aerial spraying was also discussed. W. Moen advised that Tordon and Pulse sprays are usually used. Cr Robb reminded the meeting that every time council staff visit the rating district they are charged for this time. D. Groot suggested that the stopbank could be inspected by W. Moen when he does his annual inspection in July each year as the gorse needs to be sprayed by February / March anyway. W. Moen stated that he is wary of going back to this system, as it did not work in the past. Cr Robb advised that this is what the meeting wants to do, so it can be trialled again to see if it works. W. Moen asked the meeting if they were happy for anyone that does not spray their frontage that they then get billed for it. W. Moen stated that Council expects both batters to be sprayed as well. S. Langridge asked if the stopbank is going to be graded again. W. Moen stated that now the top has been fully cleared it should be sprayed and kept clear and graded as necessary. It was agreed it would be best to spray the stopbank once the grader has been. M. Meehan advised that this matter would come up every year if the spraying weren't managed well. It was agreed that everyone would arrange their own spraying this year but if the spraying isn't up to standard then council will get a contractor in to do the spraying and the landowner will be charged for this. W. Moen asked the meeting if they were happy to receive an account if their workmanship is not up to scratch. S. Langridge stated that as long as there is a set timeline that everyone is aware of then this should work. Cr Robb advised that this could be a bit messy but if it doesn't work well then it will be readdressed next year.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2011 / 2012 financial year be adopted.*
- 2. That the 2012 / 2013 works proposals be approved.*

D. Groot / A. Stewart – Carried

RATES 2013 / 2014

W. Moen advised that with the recent work that has been done and the rate of \$80,000 this year, which is being collected now, the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2013 / 2014 year is likely to be \$42,000 but this will be reduced further by the recent work. W. Moen recommends that the rate strike stay at \$80,000 as it was last year. M. Stewart suggested having an itemised monthly account showing what has been spent each month. W. Moen advised that this work be more costly and it would take up more staff time. M. Meehan stated that monthly invoices are not done for any other rating districts. D. Groot stated that he feels that money has been wasted and that the more there is in the account then the more that is spent. D. Groot feels money was wasted on the stockpiles of rock and the way rock is carted. M. Meehan asked the meeting for general consensus on whether they want a minimal rate and do they want monthly invoices. D. Groot stated he is happy with the way it is. S. Langridge is happy with the current system. A. Stevenson stated that she would like the system to stay the same. M. Dyke is happy with the current system also. It was noted that the first rate instalment is in October and the second one is in April. D. Groot stated that once a positive balance is achieved then the rate strike could be reviewed then.

RECOMMENDATION

“That the rate strike for the 2013 / 2014 financial Year is \$80,000 (GST Excl).”

M. Dyke / S. Langridge - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman stated that traditionally all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee. It was agreed that the spokesperson role would be rotated alternate years.

Moved: *"That the committee will comprise of all current ratepayers."*

D. Groot / M. Dyke – Carried

Moved: *"That S. Langridge be elected as Spokesperson for the 2012 / 2013 financial year".*

D. Groot / M. Dyke – Carried

Moved: *"That A. Stewart be appointed as Deputy Spokesman for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

A. Stevenson / D. Groot – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

W. Moen stated that he is concerned about a local rock source. He stated that it is lucky that there is a good source of good quality rock at the gold claim. W. Moen said that contractors have commented that it is far easier to get the rock out of this area. W. Moen suggested that the rating district pays to have rock dug out in advance and stockpiled somewhere. W. Moen suggested opening up the rock, getting the bridge certified and ensuring that good size and quality of rock is available. W. Moen stated that he has discussed this with S. Langridge but he is reluctant to do this. W. Moen stated that contractors have had trouble getting rock out when the ground is wet. S. Langridge stated that the problem is contractors don't want to shoot the rock. S. Langridge said that some of the trucks have airbags and this is causing problems getting up the banks to the rock but the trucks that don't have airbags can manage well. M. Meehan stated that there is potential to have a stockpile of rock at the gold claim site. It was noted that this is very good rock but room is limited for stockpiling. Cr Robb stated that it is important that there are options for rock sources when it is needed. It was agreed that W. Moen would speak to Ian White to see how long rock from the gold claim will be available for. M. Meehan advised that he would negotiate with Ian White if necessary. M. Stewart asked if rock is sourced from further up the river then who is going to provide the road to the site and would the rating district be charged a royalty fee? M. Meehan advised that there would need to be a road put into where the rock source is. M. Stewart stated why should the rating district pay for the roading to get rock from up the river and then pay a royalty on that same rock. He feels it should be one or the other. Cr Robb advised that if the council opened the quarry up it would be for this rating district and the rating district would have to meet the costs of the quarry for extracting rock, putting the road in and certifying the bridge. Cr Robb stated that the royalty is really just an average of those costs. M. Meehan agreed with this and stated that quarries usually just break even and don't make a profit. M. Meehan stated that the short term and long term options for rock sources need to be investigated and a further meeting needs to be arranged to discuss where to from here. W. Moen advised that he is happy to investigate rock source options for the rating district. Cr Robb advised that the rating district would need to allow for restoration of the rock source. M. Meehan advised that this work for supplying rock would be tendered out. It was agreed that a readily available source of rock is required for this rating district.

A. Stevenson stated that it would be good if minutes could be taken at the informal rating district meetings and that the minutes of this meeting could be sent out in December.

There being no further rating district business to be discussed, the meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

Action Points:

- W. Moen provide historic cross section information for M. Stewart
- M. Meehan provide break down of staff time to committee.
- That Council sets a standard for stopbank spraying and if its not done then Council will arrange to do this.
- M. Meehan to investigate rock source options for the rating district.
- Send minutes to rating district committee by December.