

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
VINE CREEK RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 25 OCTOBER 2018, COMMENCING AT 11.15 AM

PRESENT

N. Monk, M. Hyde, R. Lourie, W. Diedrichs

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
P. McDonnell, S. Challenger (Councillors)
B. Russ, J. Ellis, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

B. Wilmshurst, R. Beal

BUSINESS

Cr Challenger opened the meeting. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 16 October 2017, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

R. Lourie / M. Hyde - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

B. Russ presented the financial statement for the period ending 30 June 2018. He reported that the opening balance at 1 July 2017 was \$147,525.16. Total expenses were \$1,995.52, and the closing balance as at 30 June 2018 was \$198,467.90.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

B. Russ presented the works report for the 2017 / 2018. He advised that there was work programmed for last year. B. Russ advised that Westroads requested that they be allowed to take gravel from Vine Creek to use when working on the upgrade of the road to the Hokitika Gorge. B. Russ stated that Westroads may want to take more gravel, and the rating district does not need to spend money on cleaning out the creek this year.

B. Russ reported that following an inspection on 1 October 2018, the excavation of a section of the Main Channel does not need to be done. He has allowed for \$6,000 worth of vegetation clearing and spraying of the stopbank and \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance.

W. Diedrichs requested that spraying is done in the mornings before the wind gets up. W. Diedrichs stated that there has been some trees dumped on stopbanks on his property. It was agreed that B. Russ would check this area. W. Diedrichs spoke of a culvert that he is concerned about near Vine Creek. B. Russ agreed to follow up on this with the district council. B. Russ encouraged those present to contact him following any heavy rainfall events should they have concerns about the creek.

Agreed Level of Service

B. Russ advised that Audit NZ have requested that each rating district is informed of the levels of service and protection they receive from their assets. B. Russ advised that at the moment the stopbanks are so high they will protect the scheme this scheme will withstand a 300mm above the then 50 year design flood. It was noted that there has been works done since and the 50 year design flood level is possibly greater than that now. B. Russ advised that cross sections were measured in 2007, and these would need to be redone to get an accurate return period. B. Russ asked the meeting if they wished to have the cross sections done. A speaker asked if there is any liability on the rating district if there was a flood event. B. Russ advised that if there was the potential to cause loss of life then the cross section survey work would be done. B. Russ advised that close to the same level of service is still in place as 2007, and possibly more as the channel has recently been dug out.

Willow Tree Loss

J. Ellis addressed the meeting. He stated that willow trees are used as an erosion tool in a lot of places around New Zealand. J. Ellis advised that since 2013 willow trees are being attacked by the large willow aphid. J. Ellis stated that during autumn and winter the trunk and limbs will turn black and drip honey dew. He stated that bees and wasps are attracted to this honey dew and the aphid is now killing willows. J. Ellis advised that the root system on willow trees is dying and this is affecting the protection the willow trees provide to riverbanks.

J. Ellis advised that Hon Shane Jones, Regional Development Minister, has set up an initiative to plant one billion trees over the next 10 years. Government funding is available to communities via the Provincial Growth Fund.

B. Russ advised that native planting can help as a second line of defence if a creek or river does break through. He stated this helps to stop debris going through paddocks and knocking down fences in a flood event.

J. Ellis advised that some willow trees are resistant to the aphid but it is likely that those to be replanted are likely to be a combination of exotics and native trees. It was agreed that the rating district would like to be included in an application to the tree fund.

RATES 2019 / 2020

Cr Challenger advised that the recommended rate strike is \$45,000. He advised that the balance in the rating district account is likely to be \$210,000 at the beginning of the 2019 / 2020 financial year. The prudent reserve for this rating district is around \$150,000.

Discussion took place and it was noted that in view of the \$24,000 not being required for the channel clean out. It was therefore suggested that the rate strike be cut back for this year, and if it needs to go back up to \$45,000 for next year then the committee will make that decision.

It was agreed that the rate strike for the 2019 / 2020 financial year would be \$25,000.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee. Cr Challenger asked if anyone wished to come off or go on to the committee. It was agreed that the status quo would remain.

Moved: **"That:**
 B. Wilmshurst
 M. Hyde
 T. Burden

N. Monk
T. Little
be elected as the committee for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."

M. Hyde / N. Monk - Carried

Moved: "That M. Hyde is elected as the spokesperson for the 2019 / 2020 financial year."

M. Hyde / N. Monk - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

R. Lourie requested that more financial information is contained in the reports especially when it comes to making decisions.

It was agreed that meetings would now be held every two years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.47 a.m.

Action Points

- B. Russ to check stopbanks near W. Diedrichs property.
- B. Russ to follow up with Westland District Council regarding the culvert W. Diedrichs spoke of.
- Bring financial information back dating to the last ten years to the next rating district meeting.

Council Infrastructure Insurance Details

Information provided by R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager)

Council exited LAPP in 2011 following the Canterbury earthquakes, as it was going to be unaffordable to continue.

We then established a designated Catastrophe Fund, which has grown to \$1M.

As from 1/11/17 WCRC Infrastructure is covered under the AON Lloyds scheme. We are in a grouping of South Island Councils (Nelson, Tasman, Buller, Grey, Westland, WCRC, Queenstown Lakes, Environment Southland) with total programme cover of (now) \$300M.

WCRC carries cover of \$35M and the annual premium is paid for from interest earned on the \$1M Catastrophe Fund. The excess is \$250,000.

See details of actual cover below taken from the actual Policy wording: The infrastructure cover includes (quoting direct from Policy).

"Materials damage natural catastrophe insurance" including:

Earthquake, Natural landslip, Flood, Tsunami, Tornado, Windstorm, Volcanic eruption, Hydrothermal and geothermal activity, Subterranean Fire, And Business Interruption resulting from them.