

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WANGANUI RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE HARIHARI COMMUNITY CENTRE, HARI HARI ON WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2003 COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT

R. Berry, L. Molloy, N. Adamson, R. Hodgkinson, B. Thomson,
A. Campbell, M. Hayes, C. McGrath, B. McGrath, J. Sullivan, A. Harris

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
J. Wood, (Councillor)
R. Lowe & W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

M. Molloy,
D. Davidson, J. Clayton, D. Horn. (Regional Council)

BUSINESS

J. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He mentioned that the Council had appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Mr. David Horn and outlined his extensive local government experience to date.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 2002, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*
R. Berry / L. Molloy - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

A. Harris indicated that he had been present at the previous Annual General Meeting.
W. Moen said he would amend the minutes accordingly.

FINANCIAL REPORT

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 2002 financial year.

Moved: *“That the Financial Report for the 2002 financial year ending 31 December 2002 be adopted.”*
R. Berry / L. Molloy – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

R. Berry questioned the service fee levels.
W. Moen pointed out that the service fees included such items as: inspections, contract preparation, letting and supervision, as well as everyday enquiries and general administration servicing.
J. Wood outlined the Council's new stance on the LAPP Fund premiums.
He explained that the Council now viewed the insurance of all assets as a regional responsibility and as a consequence, the Council had decided that all LAPP premiums, which had in the past been paid for by the individual rating districts, would be paid for by the general ratepayer.
L. Molloy expressed acceptance of this concept.
B. Thomson sought clarification on the LAPP Scheme “trigger point” for the activation of scheme finances.

R. Lowe explained that each individual situation was treated on its merits and so the overall situation was still unclear.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was pointed out that two members stood down on rotation, but were available for reappointment. The two this year being M. Hayes & A.Campbell.

Moved: ***“That the following nominated individuals form the committee for the 2003 / 2004 financial year:***

***A. Harris
R. Berry
N.Adamson
L. Molloy
J. Stewart
A. Campbell”***

L. Molloy / R. Berry - Carried

Moved: ***“That R. Berry be re-elected as spokesperson for the Rating District for the 2003 / 2004 financial year.”***

L. Molloy / N. Adamson – Carried

RATES STRIKE 2003 / 2004

General discussion took place on an appropriate rate strike.

R. Berry indicated that an annual inspection had been recently carried out and that there was approximately \$9,000 worth of immediate works to be carried out at the present time.

B.Thomson felt that the rates could possibly be “relaxed” for one year, while A.Harris suggested that a reduced rate of \$30,000 could be appropriate.

R. Berry explained that the rate should probably remain at the currently reduced level.

Moved: ***“That a rate strike of \$50,000 (G.S.T. Exclusive) be set for the 2003 / 2004 financial year.”***

*R. Berry / L. Molloy - Carried
(3 voted against the motion)*

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Wood explained to the ratepayers present that the Council quarry operations were now running on a “break even” basis and that there was plenty of rock available at the stockpile. He felt that the operation was streamlined and the contractor responsible for blasting the quarries was doing an outstanding job.

Both R. Lowe and W. Moen supported this view.

Staff indicated that the Wanganui Quarry was one of the more expensive quarries to operate, the last price costing \$9.00 per tonne placed in the stockpile.

J. Wood suggested that the demand for decorative stone could eventually replace the demand for rock for river protection works in the future.

Answering a question from the meeting, he also mentioned that the Council had no intention, at this stage of selling the Council quarries.

R. Berry was strongly opposed to any suggestion that the quarries should be sold off to private companies or individual contractors.

Moved: ***“That in the future, if Council had any intention to sell or contract out the Wanganui Quarry, The Wanganui Rating District must be offered first option on the area by Council.”***

L. Molloy / J. Sullivan – Unanimous

B. Thomson asked if it was Council policy to allow farmers to graze cattle on the scheme stopbanks.

R. Lowe pointed out that Council opposed such a practice as it rapidly damaged the batter slopes and hence the long-term integrity of the stopbanks.

M. Hayes asked how efficient was hand spraying as opposed to helicopter spraying.

R. Lowe explained that in ideal circumstances, the penetration of helicopter spraying could be more advantageous, however, the cost differences were large.

L. Molloy felt that the attempt at spraying was not that successful.

He also suggested that the stopbank should be mown each year to prevent overgrowth developing to an unmanageable state.

B. Thomson expressed some concern at the fact that the Poerua Scheme had been disbanded and that the Wanganui ratepayers were dependant on those individuals to all maintain their own property frontages.

W. Moen explained that the overall resource consents for the scheme would “vanish” with the scheme, however staff were in the process of “individualising” the overall consent, so that each individual ratepayer could still protect their own frontage.

N. Adamson expressed major concern at not apparently being on the database.

W. Moen was to check up with the Rates Section of the Council and report back.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Wayne Moen
Senior Engineering Officer

