

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.11 A.M.

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), P. Ewen, B. Chinn, A. Robb, D. Davidson, A. Birchfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES:

Moved (Ewen / Robb) *that the apology from T. Archer be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Robb) that the minutes of the Council Meeting 9 September 2008 be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran spoke to this report and took it as read.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *that the report be received.*

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report on behalf of C. Pullen. C. Ingle stated that there was one failure in Grey Valley North area but the rest were passes. In the Karamea area there were over 1200 possums were destroyed with some showing symptoms of Tb lesions.

C. Ingle advised the C. Pullen is taking over the Tasman area next year and is currently working through the planning for 2009 programme.

Cr Scarlett drew attention to the high numbers of possums destroyed in the Karamea area, he stated that this information needed to be publicised widely.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. Cr Scarlett welcomed R. Mallinson back from his Local Government Manager Exchange trip to the USA. R. Mallinson reported that there is a current surplus of \$575,000. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio performed well during July / August but he does not expect it to do as well for September / October.

Cr Birchfield asked whereabouts in the accounts do monies received from prosecutions show. R. Mallinson advised that this is classified as regulatory compliance income. It was agreed that this would be shown as a separate line in the report ledger. Cr Chinn asked if we have received the monies from the Save Happy Valley appeal. C. Dall has yet to complete a Declaration of Disclosure that will be lodged with the court.

Cr Davidson asked if we could consider having shared rating invoices with the district councils. He gave the example in Canterbury where you get one statement with regional and city council rates on the same invoice. R. Mallinson stated that this council is one of the only regional councils in New Zealand that collects its own rates. He advised that this method makes us more accountable to ratepayers. Cr Scarlett stated that the test would be if it saves money. Cr Birchfield stated that he would like to see the whole local body situation on the coast sorted out and not just the rating matters. R. Mallinson advised that currently we have control over our own receivables and we can pursue non-payers. Cr Chinn stated that if there is no cost saving then he would like the status quo to remain. Cr Robb stated that he can't see how it would save money as we would still need to provide information to district councils. Cr Ewen stated that he feels it is the wrong way around and we should be collecting the district councils rates. Cr Ewen suggested that this matter be raised at the next Mayors and Chairs meeting. Cr Scarlett confirmed that he would raise this at the Mayors and Chairs meeting.

Moved (Robb / Chinn) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of the meetings he attended during the reporting period included a meeting with senior management from OceanaGold. He also met with Federated Farmers and the three district councils to discuss SNA's and wetlands protection. The Regional Policy Statement Review which is coming up next year was also discussed at this meeting.

C. Ingle and S. Moran also met with senior staff from Grey District Council to discuss the Joint Floodwall Agreement.

C. Ingle advised Councillors that workshops would start next year on the West coast Regional Policy Statement Review. He advised that this is a core strategic document for the whole region and is not just about land and water but energy and minerals as well.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *that the Chief Executive's Report is received.*

Carried

4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he will provide his verbal report next month but stated it has been a very light workload this month.

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Chinn asked what is council's policy on replying to letters to the Editor. Cr Scarlett stated that he responds to media inquiries and that staff email media clippings to him. Cr Ewen also responds to media inquiries. Cr Scarlett confirmed that if a media article is factually incorrect then a response is appropriate and it should be corrected.

Cr Birchfield expressed his concern regarding the prosecution of ratepayers and that penalties include prison and fines up to \$200,000. He stated that if we are going down that track then he would like an open meeting so that Councillors who are in favour of prosecution can front up. Cr Scarlett stated that this council has neither fear nor favour in terms of who we prosecute and it is

a judgment call, on staff recommendation with the facts laid before council. He stated that this is a transparent discussion but for legal reasons it is held in committee with the majority ruling. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further in committee today. Cr Davidson stated that we have a low rate of prosecutions at this time.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m

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Chairman

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Date