

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 APRIL 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.01 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting 10 March 2009, 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 his report. S. Moran reported that a tender has now been accepted for the clearing of scrub on Cobden Island.

S. Moran advised that the Inchbonnie Rating District is proceeding with the upgrade and extension of their stopbank. Consents are currently being applied for.

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

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Pullen spoke to his report. He advised that programme is progressing well with 70% of the overall programme completed.

C. Pullen reported that the Animal Health Board is taking over the Tasman area from the 1st of July. The programme will then become known as West Coast Tasman and C. Pullen will be the Programme Manager for this combined area. A Field Supervisor for Tasman district has now been appointed.

Cr Archer asked if the failure in the Kowhitirangi area has been reworked. C. Pullen confirmed that it has reworked and has now passed.

Cr Ewen asked if the Kings Domain area was to be reworked in view of this area becoming a Tb hotspot. C. Pullen advised that this would be included in the Marsden contract.

C. Pullen advised that the Animal Health Board have decided against the aerial operation for the Hokitika area. This will now become an intensive ground control project. Cr Scarlett asked C.

Pullen why was this changed. C. Pullen responded that it was deemed too risky to the public. Cr Scarlett asked C. Pullen if there had been no protesters would it have still gone ahead. C. Pullen confirmed that it probably would have. Cr Scarlett asked if ground control would cost more. C. Pullen responded that the cost of the ground operation would be approximately 80% more than an aerial operation.

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

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He stated that we are now two thirds through the financial year. He reported that total operating expenditure is \$5.8M and total revenue for this period is \$5.3M.

R. Mallinson reported that spending in the Planning and Environmental Monitoring areas is running below budget. He advised that LTCCP audit costs budgeted to come out of the 2008 / 09 budget would be amortised over the three year LTCCP cycle.

R. Mallinson advised that he has responded to a preliminary survey by LGNZ regarding concerns from the Remuneration Authority about Councillor mileage reimbursements. He stated that the concern is that Councillors are able to claim vehicle running costs in their tax returns and that they are also paid 70 cents per kilometre (taxed). It was noted that public transport is not an option for Councillors on the West Coast.

R. Mallinson drew attention to the geographical area of the West Coast noting that a number of our Councillors travel large distances to attend meetings and on council business both on and outside of the West Coast.

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

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of the various meetings he attended during the reporting period included was the visit from senior members of the Labour Party. Cr Scarlett also attended this meeting.

C. Ingle spoke of the recent meeting with DoC staff where the Wetlands appeal was discussed. He reported that DoC believe that there are a further 170 wetlands that need to be included. C. Ingle stated that it is looking as though this appeal will go to the Environment Court due to the conflicting positions of the parties involved. He stated that on a technical level good progress is being made with DoC but this is not being carried through into policy and legal areas.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the Civil Defence Group Controllers meeting in Wellington, he stated this was a very good meeting.

C. Ingle advised that he attended an Envirolink meeting with Government officials in Christchurch, he reported that funding for Envirolink grants is to continue.

C. Ingle advised that he is preparing a paper on Total Mobility to take to the next Zone 5 meeting.

C. Ingle reported that he and R. Mallinson have put a substantial amount of work into the LTCCP with a further draft being submitted to the Auditors. This will come back to a Special Council Meeting for adoption on the 22nd of April.

In response to the recent media interest in the location of the mouth of New River, C. Ingle stated that he received one only phone call from a member of the public regarding this.

C. Ingle drew attention to the response to the letter he sent to the Minister for the Environment (Hon Nick Smith) which acknowledges problems with the Conservation Act / RMA interface. C. Ingle stated that in his reply the Minister has signalled a possible change to the Conservation Act in an upcoming Bill to Parliament.

Moved (Archer / Chinn) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

Carried

4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the visit from senior members of the Labour Party on the 16th of March. He stated local issues were discussed. Cr Scarlett attended a Waste Minimisation

meeting and seminar on the 1st of April. On the 2nd of April he met with Jo Kane from the Regional Land Transport Committee. He reported that funding for the upgrade of State Highway 73 is looking positive. He stated that the upgrade for this piece of road needs to be progressed urgently.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date