

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.57 A.M.

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), B. Chinn, A. Robb, D. Davidson, A. Birchfield, I. Cummings

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), M. Meehan (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

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

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 13 September 2011, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report advising that final price for the Franz Josef rating district emergency works is \$173,246.48. He stated that both he and the rating district are happy with the job and Westland Contractors Ltd did a very good job. M. Meehan reported that the contract in the Taramakau rating district for the raising of the hook groyne has been completed. He advised that the Taramakau rating district meeting was held yesterday and Cr Cummings was able to see these works.

M. Meehan reported that a meeting was held last week with ratepayers in the proposed Punakaiki River rating district. He advised that the ratepayers in this area were grateful for the work done by Council but they do not wish to proceed with the formation of a rating district at this time. M. Meehan advised that the meeting would like to follow up on this matter in a year's time should there be a change in the area or further erosion.

M. Meehan reported that there has been a lot of work going on in Council quarries. He stated that good progress is being made with rock available and emergency stockpiling of rock. M. Meehan reported that an opinion survey has been sent out to ratepayers in the Saltwater Creek / New River proposed rating district.

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

Carried

4.1.2 PROPOSED WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that there was an attempt to form a rating district in 2009 but there was not sufficient support for council to form a rating district at that time. M. Meehan advised that during the past two or three months residents have come to council asking council to revisit this, as they now believe that there is sufficient support. M. Meehan advised that a ratepayer in this area carried out an informal survey and this revealed renewed support for a rating district. M. Meehan advised that council then sent out a survey to the proposed rating district and the response is 68% in favour but one vote that was against the rating district was in favour of doing the emergency works proposed but did not want the rating district to extend out to further works and especially capital works. If this vote were to be taken in favour the result would then be 14 out of 19, which is 74% in favour. M. Meehan advised that some comments received from the survey form, from those that said no, were uncertainty over the boundaries of the rating district, whether the rating district will be just for emergency works outlined in attached plan or whether the rating district extends out to capital works further downstream. M. Meehan noted that there are some properties within the proposed rating district that are lifestyle properties and they do not have the ability to generate income from the land. M. Meehan advised that some properties are tied into longterm leases and there is no ability to recoup the money from the lease. M. Meehan stated that some people thought that the rating district would be too big to manage, so wanted further information and further investigations, some thought that the costs were not fair to properties further away from the river as opposed to properties closer to the river. M. Meehan advised that these comments have been looked into by council, he stated that the consultation period is much faster than normal but this is due to the concern of some people in the area that the works are required immediately. M. Meehan advised that the works have been identified, the community is aware of them and he believes that delaying the formation of the rating district is not the right thing to do and that by getting on with the formation of the rating district Council is going to help the community out. M. Meehan advised that there are two classes in the rating district, Class A and Class B, Class B is further away from the river so they pay a proportion less than Class A. M. Meehan advised that it is proposed that the rating district first deals with the emergency works that have been identified and then at their first meeting and subsequent meetings they work out what they would like to do longterm, whether they wish to tackle works further downstream or whether they just want to deal with the current issue and keep the river on track in the first 1.5 km near the bridge. M. Meehan advised that they may wish to do what other rating districts do and allow people to do capital works on their frontage and if these works are done to the appropriate standard then the rating district could take over the maintenance of these capital works after a settling down period. M. Meehan advised that if the recommendation goes through today then the first rating district meeting would be held this Thursday 13th of October. M. Meehan advised that some of the potential members of the rating district have already sent in cheques to fund the works. It was noted that all those who have sent in cheques are in favour of the works. M. Meehan advised that \$60,000 has been received to date.

Cr Chinn referred to the aerial photo showing the urgent works near the bridge. He stated that number 4 groyne in the aerial photograph is to be extended out 10 metres with 500 tonne of extra rock, he stated that the people on the north bank are against this and also number 5 groyne. Cr Chinn said that the decisions on capital works does not get decided on until Thursday and he feels that some people further down from these emergency spurs may want their capital works paid for and others might not be in favour of this. Cr Chinn wishes to move that no capital works be done in this proposal but just to top up the existing damaged groynes without any extensions included. Cr Chinn asked if the council has consents in place for the new spurs. Cr Scarlett clarified that all that council is doing at the moment is voting to form the rating district for emergency works and any subsequent works will be taken to Thursday's meeting for the ratepayers to decide on. M. Meehan advised that all the ratepayers in the proposed rating district have been advised of Thursday's meeting and he will phone them all today to advise them of the outcome of today's meeting and remind them of Thursday's meeting. M. Meehan advised Cr Chinn that there are no resource consents in place for the new works but there are consents in place for the existing works and he will be applying for consents within the timeframe allowed by the RMA for emergency works. Discussion took place on the recommendations. Cr Chinn stated that the rating district would decide on Thursday whether or not they wish to fund capital works. He stated that there could be several million dollars worth of capital works on the Whataroa River. Cr Scarlett suggested that recommendation one is changed to and the works are "other than capital works" to this recommendation. Cr Davidson stated that he is concerned that some people who are supporting the formation of the rating district are doing so on the pretext that the rating district is only going to maintain existing works. Cr Robb clarified that Cr Davidson is concerned that if there was a group of ratepayers, perhaps 60%, that wanted capital works paid for by the whole scheme and that this could

cause dissent amongst the rest of the rating district. Cr Scarlett stated that the rating district could vote for capital works on a case by case basis and if there were major works were identified then a meeting could be called to ascertain whether the rating district could afford to pay for this. M. Meehan confirmed that the rating classes are a 60 / 40 split for class A (60) and class B (40).

C. Ingle advised that the word "primary" is key in the first recommendation as this implies that there is a secondary purpose to the rating district also. He advised that the primary purpose is the existing works within the first 1.5km reach of the river which is what council is deciding on today but there might be secondary or tertiary purposes of the rating district that are revealed at the rating district meeting on Thursday and these would come back to council for confirmation. C. Ingle stated that the word primary gives the rating district some flexibility to go further should they wish to at a later date.

M. Meehan advised that the emergency works have been put out to tender and tenders have been received and prices are ready to be put to the rating district. M. Meehan stated that there will be a lot of discussion about these works at the rating district meeting and capital works will also be discussed but it will be up to the meeting to decide on what they want to do. M. Meehan advised that the number one priority is the three new spurs which is outlined in the attached map and needs protection from erosion but this will be discussed at the rating district meeting. C. Ingle advised that the problem is that the Whataroa River has changed, the works immediately downstream of the bridge have not been maintained up until now and the bend in the river, below the bridge is where the river could break out and affect everyone downstream. C. Ingle stated that this is the area where the three new spurs are required and it is important that the priority works go ahead.

Moved (Chinn / Davidson)

- 1. That Council resolves to form a new Whataroa Special Rating District as per the attached map, for the primary purpose of funding the emergency river works indentified in the attached aerial photo of the river within 1.5km of the State Highway Bridge, other than capital works; such will be decided at a later date.*
- 2. That Council give 14 days notice of its intention to strike a rate to raise \$100,000, to fund the emergency works as outlined in the attached aerial photo, having satisfied itself that section 23 (3) (a) of the Rating Act applies in this situation.*
- 3. That the first meeting of the Whataroa Rating District is scheduled for 13 October 2011 in Whataroa, to discuss the longer term strategic objectives of the new rating district.*

Carried

5.1 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that this report is for the first two months of the financial year. He reported that the surplus for this period is \$562,000. R. Mallinson reported that the surplus includes a positive budget variance of \$137,000. R. Mallinson reported that there has been a portfolio loss of \$296,000 during the reporting period which is due to the volatile international marketplace. R. Mallinson advised that portfolio losses would continue until the situation in Europe is sorted out.

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

Carried

5.2.1 ADOPTION OF AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2011

R. Mallinson circulated the Audit Report which was received from Audit NZ this morning. He advised that this is an unqualified audit report and there is nothing unusual in this report that he needs to bring to council's attention. R. Mallinson advised that council's Auditors requested that the final Riskpool weather tight home call of \$55,000 due in July 2012 and an adjustment of \$3,300 to assessed future quarry restoration liabilities be included in the 2010 / 11 results. Cr Scarlett asked if it is normal to include this in last year's accounts. R. Mallinson responded that this is normal where the cost is already known at the time.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb)

That the audit report be received and the Annual Report for the year to 30 June 2011 be adopted by Council pursuant to section 98 (3) of the Local Government Act.

Carried

5.2.2 REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REMUNERATION SETTING

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and took it as read. He advised that it is important for this council to retain its special case status as conceded by the Remuneration Authority.

Moved (Robb / Chinn) *That Council endorse the attached Draft submission.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report advising that he attended the new Ministry of Science and Innovation's (MSI) Environment Sector Advisory Group meeting in Wellington on the 22nd of September. He stated that this is the new government department that is replace FORST and MORST which were the previous science policy and funding agencies. C. Ingle stated that he was invited to this meeting on behalf of all regional councils to advise them on the best value investment in environmental science. C. Ingle reported that it is good that MSI are seeking the views of regional councils.

C. Ingle reported that he has read through the Auditor General's Report on Managing Freshwater Quality. He stated that this is a solid report and a good job seems to have been done of assessing the four councils that were looked at. C. Ingle advised that this does not assess what the West Coast Regional Council does or does not do but the report does provide other councils a handy checklist and it makes recommendations which apply to all regional councils. C. Ingle advised that council's State of Environment Report which was recently released shows an overall improvement in water quality in our rivers but with concern still around the Lake Brunner catchment. He advised that these concerns are being addressed via the Plan variation. C. Ingle stated that if the Auditor General did such a report on this council we would probably come out looking reasonably good. C. Ingle advised that he and Cr Scarlett are meeting with the Auditor General on Thursday and he will bring a more detailed report on this matter to the November council meeting. Cr Birchfield stated that he would question what the Auditor General is doing getting involved with water management. C. Ingle offered to ask this question of the Auditor General on Thursday.

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

Carried

7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

Cr Scarlett reported that it has been a very quiet month and he has dealt with general constituency matters.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.37 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date