

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2013, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.59 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), A. Birchfield, P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, S. Challenger, N. Clementson, T. Archer.

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 October 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Moved (Clementson / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Triennial Council Meeting dated 11 November 2013 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed personnel from Ospri (formerly the Animal Health Board) to the meeting. Mr William McCook, Chief Executive, Mark Neal (Area Disease Manager) and Danny Templeman (South Island Coordinator) were in attendance. Mr McCook gave an overview of the relationship between the Ospri and Council and the funding for the programme. He stated that the key role of Ospri is to run the Bovine Tb Programme. M. Neal spoke to a power point

presentation on the progress of the Tb pest strategy and advised that the programme for 2013 is now completed. He explained the process of Tb testing to the meeting. M. Neal answered questions from councillors. Cr Robb thanked Ospri for their presentation.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that works have been carried out in the Taramakau, Waitangitona and Wanganui rating districts. He advised that the tenders for this work went to Westland Contractors Ltd.

M. Meehan reported that good progress is being made on the Hokitika Seawall and they are ahead of schedule. M. Meehan advised that a lot less quarry rubble is being used than what was estimated at the start of the job. This is because sand has built up on the beach quite significantly in some areas.

M. Meehan reported that a huge amount of work has gone into the Camelback quarry in order to win the rock for the Hokitika Seawall. M. Meehan reported that a small amount of rock is being won from the Waiho Loop. He stated that a concession has been approved for this from DoC. This will save a considerable amount of money for the Lower Waiho rating district as rock will not need to be carted from Whataroa for the upgrade of the Rubbish Dump Stopbank.

C. Ingle advised that the Hokitika Seawall is nearing completion and it is now time to discuss the final finishing of the seawall. He advised that this will be discussed with the district council. C. Ingle advised that there is unprotected foreshore to the north of where the seawall is to end. The area is between Stafford Street and Hampden Street. C. Ingle advised that OCEL, the engineering advisors for the seawall, have come up with three options on how to address the erosion at the end of the seawall. A meeting with the seawall committee is scheduled for Thursday to discuss this. Cr Archer asked what is causing the erosion and is this an end effect of the seawall. C. Ingle advised that the original erosion bite has moved from the Tambo, near the river mouth, and over the winter it has moved further north and is now past the town CBD area. C. Ingle advised that since the erosion has moved north, it has reduced its severity and is now not as intense. C. Ingle advised that Councillors involved in the seawall committee will visit the seawall tomorrow and discuss where to from here at the meeting on Thursday.

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

Carried

4.1.2 RATING DISTRICT LIAISON MEETINGS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that meetings were held in the rating districts where there were key issues to discuss. He stated that he wrote to the rating districts that did not require a meeting and in all of these cases there was no request from the rating district for a meeting. M. Meehan explained the concept of rating district meetings to the newly elected Councillors. He advised that the rate strike recommended for each rating district feeds into the Annual Plan. Cr Archer drew attention to the prudent reserve that has been identified for each rating district. Cr Archer stated that the credit balance in the Franz Josef rating district account is significantly higher than what the prudent reserve is for this rating district. M. Meehan advised that the Franz Josef rating district and the Lower Waiho rating district in particular, are two rating districts which are dealing with possibly the most dynamic river in the country. He advised that in the case of Franz Josef they do have a high account balance which has been helped along by the \$101,000 that was received from the Ministry of Civil Defence. M. Meehan advised that the Franz Josef rating district is considering a cut off stopbank upstream of the township which is likely to cost up to \$200,000. M. Meehan advised that should this new stopbank go ahead then this money would come out of their account and that would put them below their prudent reserve. M. Meehan advised that this rating district always meets before the annual meeting and

they have a good discussion on their issues. He stated that as a committee (with one exception) they are very keen to see the rate stay as it is as they are very aware of potential issues that they will face in the future. M. Meehan stated that a prudent reserve gives rating districts a target and the rating district can see that there is some thought going into the figures for the prudent reserve. M. Meehan stated that in the case of the Franz Josef rating district, they have a lot to consider with the Waiho River and they are very much aware of how dynamic the Waiho River is. Cr Archer stated that he agrees with the prudent reserve concept and feels that it is the right approach. Cr Ewen stated that he is concerned about the looseness of some of the decisions where at some meetings there is a mover and seconder and at other meetings there isn't. Cr Ewen stated that it is important that there are movers and seconders as this gives the rating district ownership of the rate strike. Cr Robb stated that when there are movers and seconders the meeting then thinks that they are setting the rate when it is council who sets the rate and has the ultimate decision on the rate strike. M. Meehan stated that in some cases the meeting moved and seconded the rate strike and the chairman of the meeting accepted this and at other meetings there was no mover or seconder and this was also accepted. Cr Birchfield stated that the Coal Creek meeting was very difficult as no one would move or second anything and this was why the format was changed. Cr Archer stated that this round of meetings went far smoother than any year's meetings he has attended over the past six years because there has been a moving away from making specific resolutions. Cr McDonnell asked if rating districts can make decisions on whether or not works can proceed or is this a council decision. C. Ingle advised that if it is maintenance works of an existing structure this is non-negotiable because under the Local Government Act council has to maintain its structures on behalf of the community. He stated that if it is new capital works then it should be put to the vote because it is up to the rating district whether or not they want to increase their levels of protection. Cr Robb stated that in the case of the recent works at Coal Creek, an onsite meeting was held with the committee and the main contributor was in favour of the works so the works went ahead. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a workshop would be held before the next round of rating district meetings.

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

Carried

4.1.3 REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and stated that he is very conscious of the newly elected members not being part of these discussions when this paper was first put to council. C. Ingle advised that this is a major direction that Council agreed to move in before the election, for the regional policy statement (RPS) to have policies supporting the positive effects of economic development and strengthening our communities by creation of more jobs in the region. He stated that the RPS is about looking at long term timeframes like the next 10 to 20 years. C. Ingle advised that Council is trying to engage our communities and seeking feedback from the community as to whether they support this direction or not. C. Ingle stated that the Economic Summit on the 6th of December plays a part of this. C. Ingle advised that this paper sets out the discussion document wording and the feedback process. C. Ingle stated that road shows will be held throughout the region and he encourages the elected members from each area to attend. Staff will also be in attendance with the road shows being held in Haast, Franz Josef, Hokitika, Greymouth, Reefton, Westport and Karamea. C. Ingle advised that a Facebook page will be set up along with displays at the local libraries. C. Ingle stated that the feedback period is quite short and the results will be reported back to council in early 2014. C. Ingle distributed the posters and information relating to the RPS. Cr Archer stated that this is a very good document and it is written in a nice easy to read format. The Chairman stated that councilors need to get behind this and encourage people to make submissions. Cr Birchfield stated that there was only a 42% voter turnout for the recent elections and he feels that there possibly won't be as high a response to this. C. Ingle

advised that in the New Year the formal RMA process will be undertaken to change the RPS and to put the new policies into the RPS, if the feedback from the community indicates that direction.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That Council endorses the Regional Policy Statement Discussion Document for consulting with our communities on the broader resource management issues for the West Coast.*
2. *That Councillors participate in the road-shows in their constituent areas.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that the total revenues for the quarter were \$3.172M, and total operating expenditure for the quarter for \$3.248M. He stated that there was a deficit this quarter of \$74,000. R. Mallinson spoke to his report in detail for the benefit of the new councillors. He advised that the investment portfolio made a significant increase during October of \$200,000. R. Mallinson stated that the main reason for the deficit was due to the large deficit in the quarry trading area of over \$400,000 which was due to the scale of the work required at the Camelback Quarry during the quarter. He advised that in excess of \$500,000 was spent in this quarry but he expects that this deficit will reverse as more rock is sold for the Hokitika Seawall project during October, November and December. Cr Archer asked R. Mallinson about expenditure for resource management where expenditure is higher than predicted. He asked if this is related to timing. R. Mallinson stated that he has had issues with the valuation of unbilled work at the end of September. He is currently working through this with the software providers and therefore he is not certain if the figure for unbilled work at the 30th of September is correct. R. Mallinson said that he will be reporting back to the next council meeting once he completes his investigations. Cr Ewen asked R. Mallinson what the discontinued activities relate to. R. Mallinson stated that this is in relation to residual costs for AHB staff secondment as three staff who previously employed by Council are now employed by Ospri NZ Ltd. R. Mallinson explained the Catastrophe Fund to the new councillors.

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

Carried

6.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that he has spent some time with C. Ingle over the past week in order to work through the requirements of his chairmanship. Cr Robb advised that he has received a few phone calls recently from members of the Regional Sector Group who are currently lobbying for a new Chair and various others congratulating him on his new role. Cr Robb expressed his thanks to the two former councilors who lost their seats in the recent local body elections. Cr Robb expressed his thanks to Cr Davidson and Cr Scarlett for their service. He stated that Duncan Davidson was a Councillor for 18 years. Cr Robb spoke of Ross Scarlett's tenure and noted that he served as chairman for six years. Cr Archer suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the former Councillors.

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

Carried

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He stated that he and the CEO of Buller District Council recently visited the Denniston Plateau. C. Ingle reported that he attended the SOLGM summit. He stated

that there were a lot of good speakers at this summit. C. Ingle advised that there is a proposal to merge SOLGM with LGNZ.

C. Ingle reported that work is progressing well with the Economic Summit which council is hosting at Shantytown on the 6th of December. He stated that all elected members on the West Coast along with local MP's have been invited. C. Ingle stated that the purpose of the Economic Summit is to promote collaboration among the four councils and Development West Coast.

C. Ingle advised that the Local Government Amendment Bill has now been released. LGNZ will be doing an analysis on this around the middle of the month. C. Ingle stated that one of the main changes is the reduction in consultation requirements, particularly for Annual Plans. C. Ingle advised that the 30 year infrastructure strategy will be a new requirement for us and this will be part of the Long Term Plan.

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

Carried

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.06 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date