

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE 2013 TRIENNIAL ELECTION HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M. ON 31 OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager),
T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

The Chief Executive Officer chaired the meeting until a Chairperson was elected.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The Chief Executive Officer welcomed all present to the meeting. He congratulated Councillors on their successful election results and for getting the support of their communities in Westland, Buller and Grey. C. Ingle advised that one of the most important things is that once councillors are around the table they are no longer representing their constituencies but are now collectively representing the whole region. C. Ingle welcomed Cr's Clementson, Challenger, Ewen and McDonnell to the Council. There were no apologies.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS:

C. Ingle introduced himself and staff in attendance to the meeting. Each Councillor then read aloud and signed their declaration.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND CHAIRPERSON OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

C. Ingle called for nominations for Chairperson.

Cr Archer nominated himself as Chairperson. There was no seconder for the nomination therefore the nomination lapsed.

Cr Challenger nominated Cr Robb as Chairperson. C Archer seconded the nomination.

Cr Clementson nominated Cr Birchfield as Chairperson. Cr Birchfield seconded the nomination.

C. Ingle asked for a show of hands for Cr Birchfield's nomination. There were two votes.

C. Ingle asked for a show of hands for Cr Robb's nomination. There were five votes. C. Ingle declared Cr Robb elected as Chairperson.

Cr Robb took the Chair. He read and signed his declaration as Chairman. Cr Robb thanked Councillors for their support. He read a statement that he had prepared. Cr Robb stated that he has a good understanding of how the council functions and the business of the council. Cr Robb advised that he has maintained his Hearing Commissioner qualifications. Cr Robb stated he is a fair person and it is important that every councillor gets the opportunity to have their view heard. Cr Robb believes he has the ability to communicate with the Mayors of our region, industry leaders of our region and government ministers. Cr Robb stated that he has the ability, time, skills and energy to fulfil all obligations of the Chairman and to lead a council. He pledged to do the best job that he can in his role as Chairman.

The Chairman called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.

Cr Archer nominated himself as deputy chair. There was no seconder therefore the nomination lapsed.

Cr Clementson nominated Cr Birchfield as deputy chairperson. Cr Birchfield seconded the nomination.

The Chairman called for further nominations.

Cr McDonnell nominated Cr Ewen as deputy chairperson. Cr Archer seconded the nomination.

Cr Archer asked each nominee to explain the attributes that they bring to this position.

Cr Ewen stated that he has had nine years on Council, three years as deputy chair and this is now his fourth term. Cr Ewen advised that he has done the appropriate training and is a certified hearing commissioner. Cr Ewen has attended conferences and meetings in Christchurch and Wellington in the past in his role. He has met with the Animal Health Board in Christchurch and has also been the alternate Civil Defence Controller for the region. Cr Ewen stated he always has an impartial view and has a good understanding of council's position and function. Cr Ewen spoke of his previous experience on council. Cr Ewen stated that it is important to have everyone's opinion; he does not dwell too long on repetitiveness as a chair. Cr Ewen stated that if everyone does their best then ratepayers cannot ask for anything more.

Cr Birchfield stated that he has now been elected for his third term on the Regional Council and he feels he is quite an experienced councillor. Cr Birchfield stated that he did a term on the Catchment Board in the late 1980's. Cr Birchfield advised that he has been in business for himself since 1978 and has the people skills required for this role. Cr Birchfield stated he has a lot of knowledge as far as earthworks and mining which council deals with a lot. Cr Birchfield stated that he has been the highest polling candidate by a good margin for the last three elections.

Cr Robb asked for a show of hands for Cr Birchfield's nomination. There were two votes.

Cr Robb asked for a show of hands for Cr Ewen's nomination. There were five votes.

Cr Ewen was elected as Deputy Chairman. Cr Ewen thanked the Chairman and Councillors.

4. GENERAL EXPLANATIONS PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 21 OF SCHEDULE 7 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002

R. Mallinson drew attention to this report and advised that this is requirement by statute. The report was taken as read.

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

Carried

5. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Chairman spoke briefly to this report. Each member was asked to complete the form and return it to the Corporate Services Manager prior to the next meeting.

6. SALARIES PAYABLE TO CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

R. Mallinson presented this report to the meeting. He advised that this is the interim determination from the Remuneration Authority. He advised this report also explains about mileage reimbursements. R. Mallinson advised that the first 30 kms is not reimbursable on any particular trip. R. Mallinson advised that included in this report is the most up to date policy regarding reimbursements.

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

Carried

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

C. Ingle advised that this report shows how Council is structured. C. Ingle advised that he has outlined how Council traditionally has structured its committees. He stated that traditionally Council has had a single Standing Committee, the Resource Management Committee. He stated that each council meeting starts off with the Resource Management Committee meeting which is traditionally chaired by the deputy chairman. The Council meets after this meeting. C. Ingle advised that other committees such as the Transport Committee are required by statute; he stated that the government is currently looking at the way transport is governed at the moment so this may change. C. Ingle advised that at the moment the Chair and Deputy Chair are required to be the Chair and Deputy Chair of this committee with territorial authorities making appointments to this committee as well. He advised that the Council's committee structure is set out in the LTP and committee delegations are covered in the Delegations Manual. C. Ingle advised that the Resource Management Committee contains all members of this council plus the two appointees from the two Ngai Tahu Runanga in the region. C. Ingle outlined the functions of the Resource Management Committee to the meeting. C. Ingle advised that West Coast Emergency Management Group is also a requirement by statute but does not need to be reconstituted following an election because the emergency management legislation does this for Council. C. Ingle advised that the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee is a committee of both the Grey District Council and this council, this also needs to be reconstituted. C. Ingle advised that Grey District Council maintains the floodwall in terms of mowing the grass verges but this council maintains the structural integrity to ensure that floodwater does not get through.

C. Ingle stated that he is recommending that a new joint committee is formed to govern the Hokitika Seawall which is still under construction. He advised that this committee would be modelled on the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee. C. Ingle advised that prior to the Hokitika seawall project starting a joint working group was formed, this group had no formal status at the time but it now does require formal status. C. Ingle advised that Westland District Council will also be formalising this working group to manage the Hokitika seawall, into a joint committee.

Cr Archer stated that after September 2014 only those councillors that are certified as Commissioners will be able to sit on hearings. Cr Archer stated that his preference is to reconsider this as he feels that the Resource Management Committee should only be appointed for a one year only term. Cr Birchfield does not agree with this and feels that the change should be dealt with when it comes. Cr Ewen stated that the term for commissioners is five years and this will cover the term of the Resource Management Committee. C. Ingle stated the Cr Archer is talking about sitting as a Commissioner for a resource consent hearing but this is about forming the Resource Management Committee which is a committee of all councillors and you do not have to have certification to be on a committee. C. Ingle clarified that the Resource Management Committee does not make decisions on plan changes or consents, when a plan change is imminent; the Resource Management Committee appoints a decision making panel to hear the plan change. C. Ingle stated that traditionally all councillors have been invited onto this, as available. C. Ingle stated he does not see any barrier for the appointing of the Resource Management Committee which is the overview committee not the decision making on consent by consent or plan by plan basis. Cr Archer accepted this explanation.

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger) *That Council re-constitute the Resource Management Committee, the Regional Transport Committee, and the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee, for the term of the new Council. To constitute a new Joint Committee of the West Coast Regional Council and the Westland District Council to govern the completion and on-going maintenance of the Hokitika Seawall.*

Carried

8. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER COMMITTEES

C. Ingle advised the tradition with the Resource Management Committee is that the Deputy Chairman chairs this committee.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *That all elected members are appointed to the Resource Management Committee.*

Carried

WEST COAST CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

C. Ingle advised that he has attached the constitution of the West Coast Civil Defence Group to this report. C. Ingle advised that the Civil Defence Plan notes that the Chair and Deputy Chair hold the power to declare a regional emergency.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *That the Council Chair be appointed to the West Coast Emergency Management Group and the Deputy Chair be appointed as the alternate.*

Carried

REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

C. Ingle advised that this is a statutory requirement in that the Council Chair and Deputy Chair have to be appointed to this committee.

Moved (Ewen / Challenger)

That the Council Chair and Deputy Chair be appointed as Council representatives on the Regional Land Transport Committee.

That the Council Chair and Deputy Chair be appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, of the Regional Transport Committee.

Carried

GREYMOUTH FLOODWALL JOINT COMMITTEE

C. Ingle advised that traditionally the three Councillors that live in the Grey constituency are elected to this committee.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *that the three Grey constituency Councillors be appointed as West Coast Regional Council representatives to the Greymouth Floodwall Joint Committee.*

Carried

HOKITIKA SEAWALL JOINT COMMITTEE

C. Ingle advised that this is the new committee which council has just formed and three elected representatives from each council are recommended for this committee. C. Ingle recommended the two Councillors that live in the Westland constituency and the Council Chairman be appointed to this committee.

Moved (Challenger / Clementson) *That the two Westland constituency Councillors and the Council Chairman be appointed as West Coast Regional Council representatives to the Hokitika Seawall Joint Committee.*

Carried

REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Cr Robb noted that the recommendation is that he stays on this committee. Cr Robb asked if anyone else is interested in going onto this committee. Cr McDonnell stated that he would be happy to join this committee once he has adjusted to his new role. Cr Robb confirmed that he could continue with this role for the time being.

Moved (Archer / Ewen) *that Councillor Robb be appointed to the Regional Animal Health Committee.*

Carried

C. Ingle advised that the Animal Health Board is now known as Ospri and they will be making a presentation at the next council meeting. C. Ingle advised that council is a major stakeholder in this programme.

DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST

C. Ingle advised that the four West Coast councils are responsible for jointly appointing one trustee to Development West Coast. C. Ingle advised that the Mayors and the Council Chair traditionally make up this Appointments Panel for Development West Coast.

Moved (McDonnell / Birchfield) *That Council appoint the Council Chairman to the DWC Appointments Panel, pursuant to Schedule 3 of the Trust Deed.*

Carried

9. STANDING ORDERS

R. Mallinson advised that Council is required to adopt a set of Standing Orders. He advised that at the previous triennial election Council voted not to provide a casting vote to the Chairman. R. Mallinson stated that it is now up to this council to decide what they would like to do this time. It was confirmed that each councillor has a copy of Standing Orders.

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that Council adopt the Model Set of Standing Orders NZ S9202: 2003; excluding Appendix H.*

Carried

11. COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT

R. Mallinson advised that this is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that Council adopt the Code of Conduct.*

Carried

12. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

R. Mallinson advised that under the Local Government Act Council is required to adopt a Governance Statement within six months of the triennial elections.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *That Council adopt the updated Governance Statement.*

Carried

13. SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

R. Mallinson advised that in the past Council has held its monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except for November when it is held on a Monday in order to accommodate the Canterbury Show Week. Cr Robb asked if councillors are happy with this dates. Councillors confirmed that they are happy with this arrangement.

Council Meeting & Resource Management Committee Meetings

(Generally held 2nd Tuesday of the month – commencing at 10.30 a.m.)

November 2013	11 th (Monday)
December 2013	10 th
January 2014	No Meeting
February 2014	11 th
March 2014	11 th
April 2014	8 th
May 2014	13 th

June 2014	10 th
July 2014	8 th
August 2014	12 th
September 2014	9 th
October 2014	14 th
November 2014	10 th (Monday)
December 2014	9 th

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *that the proposed schedule of ordinary and committee meetings be agreed to.*

Carried

14. ADOPTION OF AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2013

R. Mallinson advised that the Audited Annual Report was delivered earlier this week. R. Mallinson advised that he received the Audit Report this morning and he would table this now. Councillors read the report. R. Mallinson stated that this year's Annual Report contains a whole new suite of disclosures required by recent legislative amendments.

Cr Archer stated that he feels that this is a very good report and reflects the level of management input into managing budgets and this is very commendable.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that Council adopt the Audited Annual Report for the Year to 30 June 2013.*

Carried

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer spoke of the changes to the RMA that are going to occur in September 2014. Cr Archer stated that council is about to go through a number of plan changes and amalgamation of plans. He stated in view of these changes only those councillors who are certificated as commissioners will be able to sit on those plan hearings and make decisions. Cr Archer urged all councillors to participate in the training process to become certificated. Cr Archer is concerned that uncertificated councillors may not be able to participate in the decision making process. Cr Robb commented that he undertook this training when he first joined council and stated that the certification training is a very valuable way of up skilling yourself. Cr Robb urged his fellow councillors to undertake the Making Good Decisions training. Cr Challenger stated that he has looked into this and advised that it will be taking place in Christchurch in March next year. Cr Robb stated that this is very worthwhile.

Cr Robb thanked everyone present for their support. He stated that he is passionate about this region and its future and believes that this council has been well managed and well governed. Cr Robb stated that the financial position and the strong focus of keeping rates to a minimum and sticking to our core roles has been a strength of the West Coast Regional Council. He sees the upcoming review of the Regional Policy Statement as an important step in our region's growth, promoting jobs and community wellbeing. Cr Robb feels that as a council, we need to do everything possible to encourage the community to be involved with this process. Cr Robb stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone and is excited about the challenges that lie ahead.

The meeting closed at 11.20 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date