

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 JUNE 2014,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD,
GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 1.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES:

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *that the apology from Cr Birchfield be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 13 May 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD 27 MAY 2014

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 27 May 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that the excavation work on the Cobden cut that is illustrated in the photograph on page 8 has now been completed. C. Ingle advised that this work was done at the request of the Greymouth Floodwall committee at their annual meeting in October last year. C. Ingle advised that the photographer is standing on a plug of sand and gravel which is about 10 metres wide and this is all that needs to be removed in the event of a flood which impacts on Range Creek in Cobden.

C. Ingle reported that work has been completed in the Vine Creek, Nelson Creek and Karamea rating districts during the reporting period.

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

Carried

4.1.1 QUARRY COSTS

C. Ingle spoke to this report and reminded Councillors that a review of quarry costs was suggested at last month's council meeting. C. Ingle stated that rock prices have not been adjusted for some time now. C. Ingle explained the report to the meeting and advised that unless rock prices are increased then Council will continue to lose money on quarries. C. Ingle advised that it is at least four years since rock prices were reviewed. Cr McDonnell stated that the rock from the Camelback Quarry has cost council a lot more to win than rock at other council quarries. R. Mallinson stated that the money spent in the Camelback quarry will benefit council in the future. Cr McDonnell stated that a lot of the costs in the Camelback quarry relate to rock that has already been sold. R. Mallinson stated that Taylors Contracting Ltd (Arahura Bridge contractors) cost council a lot more than was actually received. Cr Robb stated that this project benefited the entire West Coast and is a vital link of the West Coast and most of the West Coast ratepayers have benefited from this. Cr Clementson expressed his concern about the imminent changes to the Health & Safety Act and the impact these law changes could have on quarries. R. Mallinson advised that he and M. Meehan have discussed this matter and the main purpose of council quarries is to serve the rating districts, first and foremost with the secondary function being the sale of rock on the private market. It was agreed that council quarries cannot be allowed to continue to run at a loss.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

1. *That Council receives this report; and*
2. *Effective 1 July 2014, Council increases the price of rock per tonne as shown in table 2 of this report.*

Carried

4.1.2 CANAVANS KNOB SEPARATE RATING AREA

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that the Canavans Knob rating district is no longer required because NZTA have built their own stopbanks on the inside of the rating district stopbanks. C. Ingle advised that the Canavans Knob rating district has been in abeyance for around four years now. He stated that it is now time to review the status of the rating district and it is felt that the positive credit balance should be refunded back to the members of the rating district. C. Ingle advised that consideration needs to be given as to what happens with the stopbank that was built by the Canavans Knob rating district. He advised that it could be given to the Lower Waiho rating district as some of these people are members of the Canavans Knob rating district, or transferred to NZTA or retain it but do not maintain it. C. Ingle advised that the stopbank does not need maintenance now that it is no longer beside the river. Cr Archer asked if the 7,000 tonnes of rock is of any value if it is taken out and sold as this equates to \$70,000 worth of rock. The Chairman noted that there is also a 300 tonne stockpile of rock in this area as well. R. Mallinson advised that the protection infrastructure for this rating district is valued at around \$340,000 and is the replacement value of the current assets. Extensive discussion ensued. It was agreed that council would consult with all parties concerned including NZTA and should the community wish to wind up the rating district, then the balance of \$27,267 is credited back to the Canavans Knob rating district.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

1. *That Council first consults with rating district and NZTA with regard to the assets in the Canavans Knob rating district.*
2. *That if the community wishes to wind up the Canavans Knob rating district then Council agrees to refund the \$27,267 credit balance to the property owners in the Canavans Knob Separate Rating Area.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that this is the ten month financial report up to the end of April. He advised that the surplus for the ten months is \$604,000. R. Mallinson stated that the surplus takes into account the unbudgeted revenue received from MCDEM of just over \$500,000 for the 2010 flood damage claim. R. Mallinson reported that surplus also takes into account the unbudgeted spending at the Camelback Quarry along with the downturn in volumes and size of resource consent applications. R. Mallinson advised that the \$1.818M cost of the Hokitika seawall has been capitalised. R. Mallinson stated that the Investment Portfolio performed well during April and better again in May. R. Mallinson reported that he is expecting a very good performance from the Investment Portfolio for the entire year. Cr Archer asked R. Mallinson if we are on target to meet the 7% return. R. Mallinson stated that the return for the year to date is just under 8% which is very pleasing.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That this report is received.*

Carried

4.2.1 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL PLAN

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that it is now time to make the formal decisions following the Councillor workshop for the annual plan. C. Ingle advised that there were 10 submissions received. Councillors made decisions on each submission individually.

TB Free West Coast (Katie Milne, Danny Templeman, Dr Mark Neill)

This submission supports the Plan. In particular the continued funding of the TB programme.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell)

It is recommended this funding programme remain in the Plan, unchanged.

Carried

OSPRI (Danny Templeman)

This submission also supports the Plan and the continued funding of the TB programme.

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

It is recommended this funding programme remain in the Plan, unchanged.

Carried

Federated Farmers West Coast (Katie Milne)

This submission supports the continued funding of the TB programme and the general approach of Council avoiding general rate rises, and using targeted rates for flood protection works. They are not opposed to the changes in the annual plan for:

- pest plants resourcing,
- new flood warning service for Mokihinui,
- better low flow information in upper grey valley,
- new civil defence manager, and
- various rating district amendments.

They suggest the civil defence funding be changed from capital value rating to a uniform annual charge or fixed charge across each rating unit.

Their argument is that civil defence services are more focussed on the urban areas rather than rural areas. This is not necessarily the case, however as during Easter wind event many rural areas were impacted and the regional co-ordination role focussed on both urban and rural impacted areas and sought national relief support (successfully) for some of the worst impacted rural areas.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell)

It is recommended the rating system for the civil defence rate remain unchanged.

Carried

Enviroschools (Zoe Watson)

This submission seeks funding of \$2,500 toward the Enviroschools educational programme. This money would go toward regional coordination in 2014/15.

It was noted at the workshop that educational contributions is not a core function of Councils under the Local Government Act, and that Councils have recently been criticised for going beyond their core functions and spending ratepayer funds on matters that they are not expert in, nor accountable for.

Moved (Clementson / Challenger)

It is recommended that this submission be declined.

Carried

Inger Perkins, Hokitika

This submitter wants Council to invest in a contestable fund for environmental enhancement.

Council supports riparian planting in targeted catchments and recently secured \$200,000 for planting and other environmental enhancement works in the Lake Brunner catchment. Staff have been involved in community planting days to assist the process. It is not recommended that ratepayer money be invested into enhancements on private land.

Moved (Ewen / Clementson)

It is recommended this submission be declined. No change to the Annual Plan is required.

Carried

E Walker, Hokitika

This submission supports the new seawall at Hokitika. They consider the wall should be extended northwards to Sunset Point and southwards to Park Street.

The submitter should be advised that the rating district committee will continue to monitor the unprotected shoreline north and south of the Hokitika seawall. Action may be taken, based on the risk of whether damage could occur to nearby private properties. If further erosion necessitates an extension of the seawall, a review of the current rating classification may well be necessary and appropriate.

Moved (Challenger / McDonnell)

It is recommended that no changes are required in the Annual Plan.

Carried

Martin Dobson, Westport

This submission wants Council to invest in a new air quality monitoring device for Westport.

The advice and funding contribution from the Ministry for the Environment at the time the National Air Quality Standard was put in place, was that the Council should work with the Reefton community as a priority. The meteorological conditions in Reefton differ to those in Westport, Greymouth, Runanga and Hokitika, and the Reefton situation in terms of ambient winter air quality, remains the highest priority.

At this point in time it is recommended that the Council continue to seek solutions to the problem in Reefton, before turning its attention elsewhere.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

It is recommended this funding allocated for Air quality remain as is.

Carried

Cr Archer requested that council provides recommendations and advice on management of solid fuel burning appliances similar to that provided to Reefton residents.

Community and Public Health

The submitter supports the Annual Plan's water quality targets, compliance monitoring, the Reefton air quality work, and the proposed new biosecurity work. They also request the Council commences new programmes for creating 'source protection zones' around drinking water supplies.

It is recommended the submitter be advised that the accountability for drinking water supplies lie with the district councils; and that to date we have had no approaches from the district councils to establish 'source protection zones' to assist them to manage the water quality of these water supplies.

The submitter also supports our Road safety committee work, Transport planning and Total mobility funding; Flood warning activities; and strengthening Civil Defence. They suggest that Council reconsider its decision to restrict the Warm Homes scheme to Reefton ratepayers only, with an alternative to keep the scheme going in another high needs area once the Reefton project is complete. Staff recommend Council adopts the latter approach.

Moved (McDonnell / Archer)

It is recommended that no changes to Plan are needed as a result of this submission. The strong support of the council's work programme from this submitter is noted.

Carried

Active West Coast

The Submission is also in support. They also support the wide range of activities the Council funds, very similar to the submitter above. This submitter requests Council fund additional projects to support economic development: including Enviroschools, re-expanding the warm west coast scheme, and supporting district projects that enhance economic development such as Events; Cycleways; Taramakau bridge clip on; a Signage strategy.

The Economic Development Plan consultation process over coming months will help to guide what activities the Regional Council may wish to fund, if any. The timing of decisions on this will coincide with Councils Long Term Plan process, commencing early next year.

Moved (Challenger / Ewen)

It is recommended no changes to the 2014/15 Annual Plan are needed.

Carried

Paul Elwell-Sutton, Haast

This submitter makes comments on a proposal to change the land and water plan, a matter that is not mentioned in the Annual Plan.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

It is recommended the submission be declined. No change to the Annual Plan is needed.

Carried

Adopting the Long Term Plan

Once the decisions are made on the ten submissions above, Council can formally adopt the new Annual Plan for 2014 – 2015.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell)

That the Annual Plan for 2014-15 be adopted.

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cr Robb spoke to his report and noted the various meetings he attended including the New Zealand Walking Access Commission meeting and the Reserve Bank Governor's luncheon.

Cr Robb stated that the collaborative planning workshop that he attended in Christchurch was a valuable opportunity with the facilitators getting the attendees to speak about their experiences in this area. Cr Robb stated that this highlighted the benefits of the work that this council is doing with the Mayors and Chairs Forum, Development West Coast and the Reefton community. He feels that this work is very much in line with what councils should be doing in future.

Cr Robb reported that his meeting with Hon Simon Bridges to discuss platinum tender processing on the West Coast was interesting with further information on this matter to be forthcoming over the coming months.

Cr Robb reported that the Mayors and Chairs Forum was held yesterday. Tai Poutini Polytech presented on their future strategy and are seeking council's support. Michael Frampton from the WCDHB also presented and gave an insight on where health services are heading. He spoke of the importance of getting good positive information out to the community. Cr Robb stated that the West Coast is going to have a very good health service compared to a lot of other regions in New Zealand. C. Ingle advised that the current situation is very positive with the WCDHB now having the support of the CDHB behind it. C. Ingle stated that David Meates (Chief Executive of WCDHB), has made good improvements since his arrival. Cr Archer expressed his concern about the lack of funding for Buller in this area. Cr Robb stated that Mr Meates wants to inform people of this good news and wants to have open dialogue with stakeholders and to be able to present to councils on the progress to date.

Cr McDonnell left the meeting at 2.38 p.m.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report and took all meetings he attended as read. C. Ingle spoke about the proposed Buller River Flood Protection Scheme. He is proposing that both councils meet together on site in July to progress this matter.

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

Carried

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 2.39 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date