

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 MARCH 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.45 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 9 February 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATION

K. Stratful, Regional Economic Development Manager addressed the meeting. K. Stratful stated that businesses want to get better and stronger and they are anxious to find out what the regional growth study is going to produce. K. Stratful advised that there are three main drivers of the economy on the West Coast; mineral extraction, dairying and tourism. K. Stratful said tourism is growing and is going to continue to grow fast. Currently mainly Chinese tourists are visiting the West Coast. He stated that more kiwis need to tour this part of the country.

K. Stratful spoke of work being done in the mining and dairy sectors. He noted that the West Coast economy has traditionally been built on manual labour. He stated that in the coming 10 – 15 years the economy will be driven by the digital age and there is already evidence of this starting to occur. K. Stratful stated that the people who are going to deliver this are currently between 15 and 18 years old. He stated that a lot of ratepayers are concerned about this age group as they see drift as the main concern. K. Stratful stated that the West Coast has an amazing ability to bring people back to the West Coast, people who have lived here before who want to return. He stated that the West Coast has the opportunity to become entrepreneurial in this area. C. Ingle stated that the next step is the start of the MBIE Growth Study with the consultants arriving this week. C. Ingle stated that he, Cr Robb and K. Stratful will be very involved with this study and supporting the consultants and making sure that they understand the West Coast well from the start. C. Ingle advised that the growth study will run right through until November. He stated that this is a great

opportunity to use these consultants and the expertise they bring into town. C. Ingle advised that the consultants have done these studies before but they have not been on the West Coast before. The Chairman thanked K. Stratful for his presentation.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that as predicted the Waiho River has migrated to the north and is causing problems at the oxidation ponds. M. Meehan advised that the river is causing concerns at the 55 km corner where NZTA have put in protection works. M. Meehan advised that the concerns with the river are now turning into a civil defence issue for two nearby houses. He stated that these houses are particularly vulnerable after a recent event, which was not a large weather event. The local civil defence plan has now been adapted accordingly. M. Meehan advised that Westland District Council has placed 500 mls of gravel onto the access road to the oxidation ponds as it the river was almost overtopping the road. M. Meehan advised that Council and NZTA are looking at a joint management strategy for the river. Our monitoring work is already aligned with NZTA's. M. Meehan advised that Council is working with NZTA to raise the north side stopbank which protects the township; this is in conjunction with the work that NZTA wants to do on the south side and upstream. Electronet have now moved the power poles from the river as the build-up of gravel was affecting the power poles. M. Meehan advised that the annual cross section survey is going to be done in the next two weeks.

M. Meehan stated that the NIWA report on coastal erosion at Neil's Beach is now completed. He stated that NIWA have identified some actions that will help gravel to build up along the beach. M. Hicks from NIWA advised that it is likely that the December 2010 flood event caused a change in the river mouth that led to the northern coastline receiving all the replenishment of the sediment down at Neil's Beach and the southern area, in front of Neil's Beach not receiving any. M. Meehan stated that should a rating district be formed in this area, maintaining the mouth in the location could be considered to ensure that the sediment is transported to this area. M. Meehan advised that a meeting is scheduled for the last week of March so that key people from the area can work out a way forward.

M. Meehan advised that NIWA were asked to provide a report on the mouth of the Hokitika River as there was a very narrow mouth. NIWA also provided comment on potential flooding impacts for the town and they advised that it is unlikely that the mouth will cause any issues for the town. NIWA also commented on the erosion between Sunset Point and the rating district's Hokitika Seawall. M. Meehan stated that the report has been forwarded on to the Hokitika Seawall Committee for discussion at their next meeting.

M. Meehan reported that NIWA has completed a report on Granity, Ngakawau and Hector coastal erosion. This was a follow up from the report done in 2006 which was also done by NIWA and included some solutions that could work. M. Meehan said that since 2006 some of the actions suggested in the NIWA report have been done, with residents carrying out collectively, some protection work structures, some planting has been done as well. NIWA have provided further recommendations in their latest report. M. Meehan stated that there is no silver bullet for any of these areas there are suggestions that will buy properties more time but there is no long term solution being proposed. NIWA recommend planning for an adaption strategy in the future. M. Meehan advised that Buller District Council has been heavily involved in community discussions and a meeting is being held on Monday night to discuss where to from here. M. Meehan stated in all areas there is potential for rating districts to be developed but in both reports NIWA are shying away from recommending putting seawalls in place as there are other options to consider.

M. Meehan reported that consultation with the Westport community regarding the recent flood study is scheduled for April.

M. Meehan answered questions from councillors. Both C. Ingle and M. Meehan confirmed that Westland District Council is doing a lot of work in Franz Josef both for the oxidation ponds and in the civil defence area. Cr Archer commented that both the NIWA reports are excellent and contain some meaningful and measurable outcomes for these communities. He stated that the main issue for residents is the costs and is it affordable. Cr Archer stated he hopes that NIWA reports are going to be available and accessible for the residents. M. Meehan advised that the NIWA report on Neils Beach will be sent to every resident as a hard copy. He will discuss the best way of circulating the Granity, Ngakawau and Hector report to residents at Monday night's meeting. Cr Archer stated that it might be helpful to have some

costings to take to the meeting. Cr Ewen stated that he agrees with Cr Archer's comments about the Neils Beach, Granity, Ngakawau and Hector reports but he is disappointed with the brevity of the Hokitika work. He stated he would have liked a bit more detail for this report. Cr Ewen stated if you are going to find out what has happened and the threat of risk you have to look at the past. Hokitika has been inundated within 12 years twice by the spit blockage with no rainfall event other than a moderate flood. Cr Ewen tabled some old news clippings. Cr Ewen stated that the photographs identify the 1947 flood and the 1935 flood. He stated that the flood inundated up to 5 feet in the business district. Cr Ewen stated that he will keep a watching brief on this, council should be conscious of it, we have mitigated the risk with the opening of mouth with DoC allowing that to be excavated but he would have thought NIWA would have been a bit more strategic by looking at the past because if you don't know what has happened in the past you are not going to fix the future very well. He stated that this is a threat and it remains one because it has happened historically in the past. Cr Ewen is disappointed with the NIWA report and he is sure some of the older residents in Hokitika are going to remind us that this has happened in the past and their memory will serve as text because they were there. C. Ingle offered to pass Cr Ewen's material back to the consultants and ask them to consider that but it may be that they have considered it. Cr Ewen stated there is no mention of it, as they stop at 2007. M. Meehan advised that the report was done under Envirolink at a cost of \$5,000. He stated that NIWA did a lot of work with Neils Beach and Hokitika that exceeded \$5,000 but he is sure they will be happy to consider Cr Ewen's photographs. Cr Ewen stated that 5 feet of water is pretty significant when there is no rainfall event and no flood in the river, other than a moderate rainfall overnight and it happened and 3 o'clock in the morning.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in R. Mallinson's absence. C. Ingle reported that the trends are continuing with unfortunate results with the investment fund underperforming drastically. C. Ingle stated that there is a huge gap of what was expected from the investment fund compared to what Council is actually receiving.

C. Ingle advised that Council is now looking at a breakeven situation for quarries which is good news.

C. Ingle answered questions from Cr Archer regarding the resource management budget. He stated there have not been a lot of resource consent applications coming in and this has been a trend of the past year or two. Revenue is not supposed to match expenditure in this budget but revenue is supposed to match its year to date budget. Further discussion took place.

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

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and spoke of various meeting he attended during the reporting period. He stated that the Regional Sector Group meeting was very good.

The Chairman reported that that he and his wife spent a very pleasant evening with the Governor General and his wife during their recent tour of the West Coast. They also met with the district Mayors and received an overview of what is happening in the region at the moment.

The Chairman stated that he received C. Ingle's resignation on 24 February. The Chairman thanked C. Ingle for his work and stated that he is leaving Council in a good healthy state and he wished him well with his new role.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He reported that Martin Jenkins won the economic growth study contract. C. Ingle stated that he is confident of a good result from the Growth Study.

C. Ingle reported that the meeting with Rex Williams, ECAN Commissioner was very positive. He stated that Mr Williams thinks wider than just Canterbury which is very good to see and this ensures that the South Island collaboration spirit is still alive and well with the Canterbury Commissioners.

C. Ingle reported that he is doing some work with SOLGM on codes of ethics for staff and managers in councils, ensuring everyone follows a high ethical set of standards. C. Ingle stated that the West Coast team for the Australasian Management Team challenge is a collaboration between three of the four councils and is a very strong team. He stated that this is very worthwhile and teaches those involved teamwork, collaboration skills and management skills.

C. Ingle reminded Councillors of the budget workshop following today’s meeting.

Cr Birchfield stated that he feels MBIE needs to be talking to NZ Petroleum and Minerals as one of the reasons Councils resource consent applications and income is down is because Petroleum and Minerals are not processing minerals permits. Cr Birchfield stated that this is affecting the whole economy.

Cr Archer wished the Australasian Management Team challenge well and stated that he participated in this several years ago and it is challenging and demanding but great to participate in.

Moved (Archer / Clementson) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.32 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date