

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MARCH 2019, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.52 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

A delegation of people representing the Franz Josef rating district sat in the public gallery. They were Mayor Bruce Smith, Mr Grant Gibb, Mr Logan Skinner and Mr Hayden Smith. The Chairman stated that although there has not been a formal request for speaking rights, he would ask Councillors, after the report on Franz Josef has been presented, if they wish to hear from the delegation.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 12 February 2019, be confirmed as correct, with the amendment below made.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Ewen drew attention to page 2 of the minutes. He requested more context be added to his comment relating to the Punakaiki Seawall repair work. It was agreed that following the sentence "He stated that the rating district should not be paying for any repair work in this area if it was caused by NZTA's works"; that the words "it was later established that Council did not meet any of those costs" would be included in the minutes.

Cr Ewen drew attention to page 3 of the minutes and stated that he is yet to receive the names of the sites where water quality has declined. M. Meehan advised that he would follow up on this matter.

REPORTS:

4.1 FRANZ JOSEF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL REQUEST

M. Meehan spoke to this report and provided extensive history on the various reports and works carried out for the Waiho River over the past three to four decades. He stated that it is clear that back in the 1980's the Catchment Board and government agencies constricted the river with stopbanks and this is part of the causation of the aggradation that is now being seen in the river which is around 200 mms per year. M. Meehan advised that should the river break through to the

south it would be virtually impossible to get it back into the active channel. M. Meehan spoke of work and community consultation that has been done over the years to discuss different options including the possibility of a holistic rating district that would encompass all the works on the river, the setting up of the governance group which links in with the district council, DoC, NZTA, iwi and WCRC. This was rejected by the community. M. Meehan spoke of the two day workshop held in 2015 to investigate the 55 km corner and to come up with a stopbank design from the end of the helipad down to the oxidation ponds. This proposal was also rejected at the time.

M. Meehan drew attention to the two letters attached to his report and spoke extensively on the long term approach which has been talked about for the last four decades which includes the construction of stopbanks and allowing the river to operate on its band. M. Meehan advised that central government assistance is required to do this. He stated that pitches to the Provincial Growth Fund to do this work have been rejected. M. Meehan spoke of NZTA's plans to realign the state highway to the south but funding would be required for this. He stated that a long term strategy should be pursued and should include short to medium term solutions in order to beef up the current assets. He stated it is important not to go against engineering advice. M. Meehan also spoke of the detrimental effects of the State Highway to the south, the properties to the south and also the Franz Josef township and tourism.

Extensive discussion ensued. Staff answered questions from councillors. M. Meehan confirmed that the advice Council engineers have given to the community is that the proposal to extend the helipad extension would be unlikely to get through the resource consent process. It was noted that the report from LandRiverSea Consulting Ltd does not support this proposal as it is likely to exacerbate flooding and erosion at the 55 km corner.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *That Council hears from members of the Franz Josef Community.*

Carried

The Chairman stated that this will not be a debate, but questions of clarification may be asked.

Mayor Smith, G. Gibb and L. Skinner addressed the meeting.

The Chairman advised that if there was a good plan, which would get through the resource consent process, with good engineering advice behind it, Council would support it. M. Meehan advised that a meeting of the Franz Josef Governance Group is scheduled for a few weeks' time and there is a potential to put a plan to this group which could then gain support of NZTA, iwi, district and regional council and DoC and then be put to the Provincial Growth Fund. Further discussion took place on the current state of the cut. R. Beal advised this is consented and can be rebuilt, but cannot have rock placed on it. M. Meehan stated that the rating was set up to maintain the assets, and if the temporary bund slowly disintegrates, or disintegrates during a flood then the existing flood infrastructure will do what it is there to do.

The Chairman thanked Mayor Smith, G. Gibb and L. Skinner.

Moved (Challenger / McDonnell)

1. *That Council receives the report.*
2. *That Council does not support any further constriction of the Waiho River fan, unless expert advice supports the work.*
3. *That Council staff engage with the Franz Josef Rating District, the Lower Waiho Rating District, Westland District Council, Iwi, NZTA, DoC and other agencies to form up a collaborative plan with a view of taking it towards a Provincial Growth Fund application.*
4. *That Council leads a discussion with central government regarding the long term management of the natural hazard issues, with a focus on a collaborative long term solution.*

*Cr Birchfield against
Carried*

4.1.2 TRANSFER OF POWERS – NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY

M. Meehan spoke to this report. P. Pretorius was to speak to this report but had to leave the meeting. M. Meehan stated that GDC have legal advice on this matter. M. Meehan advised that he

will liaise with R. Mallinson to ascertain as to whether this matter needs to be included in the Annual Plan.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That Council receives the report.*
2. *That West Coast Regional Council, pursuant to S.33X of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 read with S.17 of the Local Government Act 2002, transfers to Grey District Council all responsibilities, powers and duties that it has under Part 3A of the former Act as it relates to the Greymouth Port, including, but not limited to:*
 - *The power to appoint a Harbourmaster*
 - *The power to appoint enforcement officers.*
 - *The power to erect, maintain navigational aids in accordance with maritime rules*
 - *The power to make Navigation Bylaws.*
3. *Council undertake any necessary consultation alongside Grey District Council to give effect to relevant legislation.*

Carried

4.1.3 OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report. Cr Birchfield asked for the costs of the potential works at Rapahoe. R. Beall responded that the estimated total costs are around \$161,000. He advised that Grey District Council has agreed to fund the ditch and culvert upgrades. R. Beal stated that this work will not stop waves from overtopping but will allow water to get away faster. R. Beal advised that consultation on a possible rating district will be carried out via the Annual Plan process with a two class rating classification to be considered. Extensive discussion took place on the consultation process, benefitting parties and the likelihood of progressing to a rating district. The Chairman advised that Council received a request from this community to put a proposal to them, and this needs to be seen through.

R. Beal spoke to the rest of his report and answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That staff prepare draft consultation documentation for the purpose of consulting the Rapahoe community on erosion protection options through the 2019 / 20 Annual Plan process.*

*Against Cr Ewen
Carried*

4.2.1 OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and explained the performance of the portfolio over the past 17.5 years. He stated that the real value of the portfolio has been preserved over this time and over the last 10 years it has outperformed the cash term deposit portfolio by over 3% per annum. R. Mallinson advised that the portfolio has rebounded during January and February. The Chairman stated that Council has made well founded decisions that have been good for the West Coast community. He stated that R. Mallinson has provided good advice and has kept Council updated on the performance of the portfolio over the years. R. Mallinson tabled an investment portfolio fact sheet. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors and explained how funds for the rating districts are managed.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *That the report be received.*

Carried

4.2.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AGENCY ACCESSION & DEBENTURE TRUST DEED

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. It was agreed that the recommendation would be changed to reflect positions only, and not names.

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield)

That the Chief Executive, Chairman, Corporate Services Manager, and Management Accountant be authorised signatories and authorised to deal with Covenant Trustee Services Ltd regarding the Debenture Trust Deed and associated responsibilities.

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman took his report as read. He stated that the main focus of the Regional Sector Group (RSG) is on freshwater and the work that the Freshwater Management Group is carrying out. The Chairman stated that the RSG is working hard to have an impact on what decisions are being made. The Chairman spoke of various other meetings he attended.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan took his report as read. He advised that it is likely GNS Science will apply for funding from the PGF to carrying further drilling at key sites they have identified around the region.

M. Meehan stated that the Biodiversity NPS was discussed with Hon Damien O'Connor at the recent meeting. He stated that this is a significant issue for our Council as this NPS directly affects private properties.

M. Meehan stated that the Three Waters is a very big issue at the moment. He advised that there will be changes to the Freshwater NPS.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

M. Meehan advised that M. Davies from DoC will present to next month's Council meeting.

Cr Challenger asked if Council has a resource consent in place to extend the Hokitika Seawall should erosion occur in years to come. It was agreed that this matter could be discussed at the next meeting of the Hokitika rating district.

Cr Challenger advised that the ramps need to be placed where they are not going to be attacked by the sea. It was agreed that R. Beal would arrange for his staff to check this area.

Cr Ewen asked for an update on PGF matters relating to fuel storage on the West Coast. M. Meehan advised that the PGF have advised that the fund is not for resilience. M. Meehan stated that he has been told that there is an active application in place for a fuel distribution centre in Greymouth which would include significant fuel storage. M. Meehan advised that this is being led by DWC. M. Meehan advised that feasibility work would need to be done, but this is not covered by the PGF. M. Meehan advised that AF8 is looking into fuel storage. It was agreed that Council would wait to see what comes out of the work that DWC is doing in this area.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

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