

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 APRIL 2022,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 11:13 A.M**

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chair), S Challenger, J. Hill, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, L. Coll McLaughlin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

R. Beal (Operations Director) via zoom, N Costley (Manager Strategy & Communications), P Hibbs (IT Support) via zoom.

Also present: Brendon McMahon (Grey Star), Lois Williams (Newsroom), member of the public

1. WELCOME

Cr Birchfield read the prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair called for apologies. H Mabin was an apology.

Moved (Challenger/Magner) *that the apology from H Mabin be accepted.*

Carried

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair called for declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair called for any speakers for the public forum. There were no speakers.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2022.

Moved (Challenger/Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council meeting dated 8 March 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Ewen asked whether there was any update on the Westport situation regarding Kiwirail. Cr Coll McLaughlin responded that they had not heard from Kiwirail at the Joint Committee meeting yesterday.

REPORTS

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair took his report as read. Cr Coll McLaughlin clarified with the Chair that the submission on stewardship land was prepared by Mark Christenson.

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

Carried

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

7.1 Monthly Report

N Costley advised the meeting that H Mabin was an apology for the meeting and that she would note any questions that the Councillors might have for H Mabin. There were no questions.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin/Ewen) *That this report is received.*

Carried

7.2 Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee minutes

N Costley noted the purpose of the report was to table the February and March meeting minutes of the steering group. There were no questions.

Moved (Hill/Cummings) *That the Council receive and note the attachments to the report.*

Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 Operations Group Report

R Beal spoke to this report and took it as read. He updated the Council that the work in the Taramakau rating district had been completed and that the work in Wanganui was ongoing. The map on page 39 of the agenda illustrates how quickly erosion can occur in the flood events they have been experiencing. Staff have been

preparing NEMA claims for a number of works. Flood damage assessments have just been completed, and staff have been providing advice to landowners following the February floods.

Staff updated the Westport Joint Committee yesterday on progress. Davis Ogilvie have been approved to undertake initial work that is required before the work is put out to tender. There is an upcoming workshop with the TAG on matters including the draft alignment for the Organs Island rockwall.

R Beal advised that in relation to the IRG projects, the Greymouth and Hokitika geotechnical investigations have been completed and the reports will be put before the Council at its May meeting. The Hokitika seawall resource consent application was lodged in the week of 2 April, not in March as was noted in the agenda report.

R Beal spoke to the two attached reports on page 45 of the agenda, noting that there was significant deforestation on a number of steep slopes following Cyclone Ita. This is affecting a lot of the region's catchments, causing issues in the active riverbeds. It is similar to pine forest slash choking up the riverbeds, and it is a significant issue. Lake Stream has been investigated by staff for a number of years, and is getting worse. Staff consider independent expertise should be engaged to advise on what can be done, but it is outside of a rating district so there is no funding available to contribute to any solutions. R Beal noted the picture on page 49 which shows that the creek bed has changed dramatically and is affecting not only the state highway and the culverts but also private properties. He noted that ready solutions are not apparent for those property owners.

Cr Coll McLaughlin said she gets a lot of correspondence about the Lake stream/Christmas Creek situation, and asked about whether independent expertise could be engaged to review this. R Beal advised the issue would be who pays for these solutions.

Cr Cummings asked about funds for the Wanganui River. R Beal said that they had a reserve to fund the works but they may not need to contribute much depending on the application to NEMA for funding. Cr Ewen noted the paper from P Birchfield on the situation was a very good summary of the situation.

The Chair noted that there should be cooperation between the engineering staff and compliance staff, so that the information to landowners is well aligned.

Moved (Cummings/Magner) *That the report is received.*

Carried

8.2 Central Government Co-Investment in Flood Protection Schemes

The Chair welcomed John Hutchings of Henley Hutchings, who joined the meeting via zoom. He took the Council through a Powerpoint presentation on the recently released report from Regional Councils on the case for central government co-investment in flood protection, for places like Westport.

Cr Coll McLaughlin thanked J Hutchings for his presentation and said she was very pleased to read the report, noting that much of the report covered ground the Westport 2100 group had covered. Cr Ewen agreed with Cr Coll McLaughlin's view but noted that government departments often built infrastructure such as hospitals on the West Coast in locations that are at risk, without listening to local advice. He felt the government should lead by example and not build on some of these sites.

Cr Cummings felt the report was the best he had read on the issue and had a lot of common sense in it. Cr Magner supported the comments, and said she was particularly heartened to read about the multi-factor solutions. The Chair asked if the funding might be available for situations like Lake stream discussed earlier in

the meeting. J Hutchings advised that would depend on the design of any co investment programme, and examples like that should be put forward for discussion when the co-investment programme is designed. Cr Cummings felt that there should be no cap on the amount sought from government. J Hutchings agreed, noting that this was about structural works and that much more funding would be required for other tools such as spatial planning etc. The Chair thanked him for his presentation.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin/ Challenger) *That Council receives and endorses the report.*

Carried

8.3 Rating District Meeting Minutes

R Beal spoke to this report, taking it as read. He advised that there was one change to the report; that Rapahoe rating district wished to have a meeting on 28 April at 6pm. He also thanked B Russ who has resigned from Council. He noted that Mr Russ had served the rating districts very well and had built very strong relationships with them, and worked hard to get good value in relation to the works. The Chair echoed his thanks to Mr Russ for his efforts, noting his achievements in particular with the Milton stopbank which saved the rating district a lot of money.

Moved (Cummings/Magner) *That Council:*

- (1) receives the report, and*
- (2) adopts the minutes and recommended rates strikes.*

Carried

8.4 Land River Sea Buller Model Peer Review report

R Beal spoke to the report, taking it as read. He acknowledged Matt Gardner for his work, as did a number of Councillors. Cr Challenger asked whether there was a way to look at groundwater movement and how it will affect stormwater etc. Cr Coll McLaughlin advised that that issue had been raised at the Joint Committee meeting yesterday.

Moved (Challenger/ Cummings) *That Council:*

- (1) receives the report, and*
- (2) Adopts the LRS Buller Model.*

Carried

8.5 Local Elections 2022 report

N Costley spoke to this report. There was some discussion on the different options for order of names on the ballot.

Moved Cummings/Challenger) *That Council:*

- (1) Receive the report; and*
- (2) For the 2022 triennial election, resolve to adopt the alphabetical order of candidate names as permitted Under Regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.*

Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair raised the matter of the rock at Organ's Island, as it came up at the Joint Committee meeting yesterday, and invited Cr Coll McLaughlin to update the Council. She outlined that the Committee had recognized the urgency of the works, and also that there was a lot of interest from local contractors and the Council needed to ensure its processes for procurement were transparent, if it was not going out to tender. She wondered about the option of an open process such as advertising and seeking rates for consideration. R Beal advised that there was a pre-approved panel of contractors who would price the work. He said that the closest contractors were in Karamea and Reefton, and that there are no pre-approved contractors in Westport itself. Cr Coll McLaughlin felt that there should be an option for Westport contractors to obtain pre-approval and be included in the process. She asked R Beal to outline the process for pre-approval. He advised that they could run an Expression of Interest process which would not be overly onerous.

R Beal also noted that there was an outstanding question of how the works would be funded. He had suggested at the previous meeting that it should be treated as additional funding from that budgeted in the approved LTP last year, bearing in mind there will be an effect at the end as these and other works were additional and not included in LTP budgets.

Cr Cummings asked whether EOIs would also be sought for the supply of rock, as there are two suppliers up there. R Beal advised they would seek a price as part of the tender. There was some discussion on whether additional rock would be needed.

Cr Ewen expressed his appreciation for the work R Beal has undertaken over his time with the Council, and wished him all the best for the future. The Chair also thanked Mr Beal, noting his significant work with VCS and operations. This was echoed by other Councillors, noting Mr Beal's work has been a critical part of the Westport project and acknowledging his considerable work with all rating districts. Councillors felt his extensive knowledge would be missed.

10. PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Moved (Challenger/ Ewen) *that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting, namely, -*

- *Items 10.1 – 10.4 (inclusive)*

Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
Item 10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council meeting 8 March 2022	The item contains information relating to commercial and security matters	To protect commercial information and to prevent disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage (s 7(2)(b) and s7(2)(j)).

Item 10.2	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council Extraordinary meeting, 23 March 2022	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).
Item 10.3	Council quarries	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).
Item 10.4	West Coast Emergency Management update	The item contains information that is subject to an obligation of confidence	To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence (s 7(2)(c)).

and that:

- Nichola Costley and Randal Beal be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on these subjects. This knowledge will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed; and
- The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.

Carried

The meeting continued in a public-excluded session.

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Chair

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Date

UNCONFIRMED